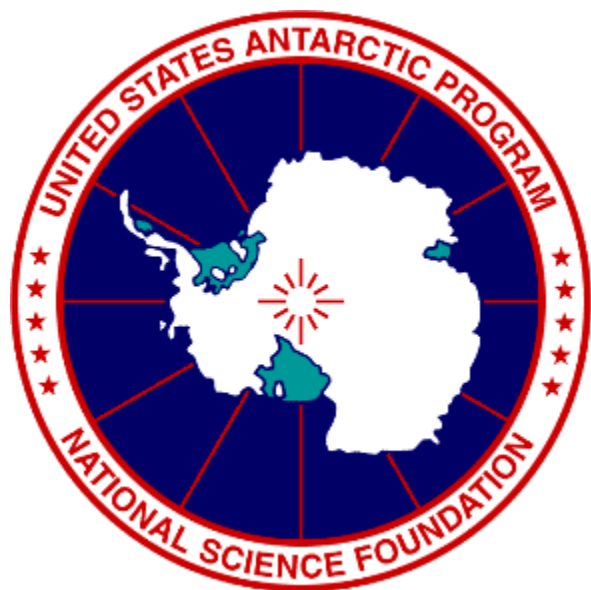


# US Antarctic Program Interagency Air Operations Manual

Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics  
Office of Polar Programs  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, Virginia  
Revision: 01 August 2017



## Interagency Lead Approval

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**Date**

***UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM (USAP)***  
***INTER-AGENCY AIR OPERATIONS MANUAL (AOM)***  
***1 AUGUST 2017***

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Supersedes USAP Air Operations Manual, dated 16 September 2016

In accordance with Presidential Memorandum 6646, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is responsible for the management of the USAP. Furthermore, the DoD will provide the logistics support requested by NSF to the program. The NSF/DoD MOA delineates agreed support that occurs on an annual basis. In accordance with this arrangement, the Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica (DCJTF-SFA) is responsible for the safe operations of all DoD air assets. Civil aircraft under contract to NSF's Office of Polar Programs (NSF/OPP) are an integral component in the support of science on the continent and share the airspace with DoD aircraft. These civil aircraft are under the direct charge of NSF and operate in line with their respective Operations Specifications (OPSPEC) and their contract with NSF.

Oversight of the on-ice operations of the civil aircraft is NSF-delegated to the Department of the Interior/Office of Aviation Services (OAS) in accordance with the Interagency Agreement (IAA) between United States Department of the Interior (DOI) and NSF. Joint use of the USAP airspace in Antarctica requires close coordination between the DoD and NSF (and its delegations). This is achieved through daily meetings between the Commander, 13th Air Expeditionary Group (13 AEG/CC) and the NSF Representative/Station Manager and via bi-weekly meetings of the Air Operations Planning Board (AOPB). USAP airspace is managed and controlled by the Space and Naval Warfare Center (SPAWAR). NSF delegates the publication and administration of the USAP Air Operations Manual to the DCJTF-SFA. The AIL Head is single point of contact for NSF technical coordination.

This manual outlines responsibilities and major actions required on the part of all agencies that support and interact with the USAP. It shall not be construed to preclude the exercise of good judgment or compliance with other aviation safety practices. The USAP AOM has been revised as requested by NSF/OPP to reflect the most recent changes regarding Antarctic air operations, procedures, and participants and must be completely reviewed. It supersedes USAP AOM dated 16 September 2016.

The intent of this manual is to provide USAP Aviation Service Providers (ASPs) key information relating to the safe and efficient execution of their duties and to provide a common reference for those operations. Information in this manual will not supersede ICAO and/or FAA regulations; military flight regulations, civilian operations specifications, and/or National Science Foundation contracts.

The following publications contain key information to USAP ASPs: DoD/NOAA FLIP series, the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM), and the International Flight Information Manual. Refer to Attachment's 1 and 2 for a glossary of references and supporting documentation.

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## **Chapter 1**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1. Aviation Service Providers (ASP's).**

1.1.1. Several US and New Zealand military organizations, US Government agencies, and civilian contractors provide aviation services to the USAP. ASP's must adhere to standard operating practices to ensure safe operations and efficient airlift utilization. The DCJTF-SFA in conjunction with the National Science Foundation (NSF) publishes the USAP Air Operations Manual. All ASP's should become familiar with the information in this manual. This is a joint, inter-agency manual; as such, DCJTF-SFA and 13AEG/CC are responsible for DoD air safety; and civilian aircraft under contract to National Science Foundation (that operate to FAA and contract requirements). Civilian operators report to NSF (via OAS) on the ice but will coordinate to the fullest extent possible with DoD to operate safely in the combined airspace environment.

1.1.2. The Joint Operations and Plans Officer for Operation DEEP FREEZE (JTF-SFA) will facilitate a semi-annual revision of this manual, to be completed following the season of an odd year. DoD units will submit coordinated changes to the JTF-SFA; other agencies will submit changes through the process designated by NSF/OPP/AIL or their designate. The Annual Planning Meeting (APM) presents an opportune time and location for coordination of all parties.

1.1.3. Intercontinental airlift is provided by various airframes to include, but not limited to, USAF C-17, RNZAF C-130s, RNZAF B-757, an Australian Antarctic Division contracted A-319, SAFAIR L-100 and New York ANG LC-130s. NYANG LC-130 aircraft provide the majority of heavy airlift on continent and fly scientific research missions. NSF contracted ski-equipped DC-3T Basler and DCH-6 Twin Otter aircraft and helicopters fly scientific research missions and provide medium and light airlift on continent.

1.1.3.1. Prior to first flight on-ice, all USAP and any non-transient pilots shall obtain a Course Rules brief from SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs (SOPP) either in Christchurch Base Operations or Mac Center (upon arrival at McMurdo Station).

1.1.4. USAF/ANG aircrews operate IAW governing Air Force Instructions (AFI's). RAAF, RNZAF, and Civilian ASP's will adhere to their respective Operations Specifications, company policies, and National Science Foundation contract language. Information contained within this manual is for informational purposes. If there is a conflict between the AOM and AFI's, Operation Specifications, or contract language, ASP's will adhere to the latter. ASP's will:

1.1.4.1. Coordinate transportation support requirements with NSF Prime Contractor's Fixed/Rotary Wing Coordinators.

1.1.4.2. Coordinate mission requirements with the user, Fixed/Rotary Wing Coordinators, and support agencies the day prior to mission execution (usually accomplished at the daily operations meeting).

1.1.5. Rotary Wing Operations. Reference **Chapter 3**.

## 1.2. USAP Landing Locations.

1.2.1. Primary airfields for the USAP are located in the McMurdo Station area and at the South Pole Station (ski-equipped aircraft only). The primary heliport is located at McMurdo Station. Additional ice runways, skiways, and helicopter landing sites are established throughout the continent supporting the USAP science activities as planned by the NSF Prime Contractor's Fixed/ Rotary Wing Coordinators.

## 1.3. USAP Primary Airfields

1.3.1. Descriptions of USAP primary airfields can be found in the DoD/FLIP Enroute Supplement and the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM).

1.3.2. McMurdo airfields operate as prior-permission-required (PPR) through the USAP Airfield Manager to ensure safe operations on the airfields.

1.3.3. **Williams Field Skiway (NZWD).** Williams Field is a ski-aircraft only facility and is located on the Ross Ice Shelf approximately 7 NM from McMurdo. The main skiway is 220' X 10,000' and oriented Grid 25/07. The crosswind skiway is 220' X 10,000' and oriented Grid 33/15. The Ross Ice Shelf moves Grid east at the approximate rate of one foot per day and is scheduled for relocation/rebuild in early 2018.

1.3.3.1. The Williams Field skiway is limited to ski-equipped aircraft only.

1.3.3.2. Williams Field is serviced by MLS, TACAN, and RNAV (GPS) approaches.

1.3.3.3. Williams Field Operations and Restrictions.

1.3.3.3.1. 180-degree turns on any portion of the skiways are not authorized. All turns should be at the ends of the skiway to prevent damage to the surface.

1.3.3.4. Williams Field is maintained and operated IAW AFI 13-217, *Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations* Chapter 4, *LC-130 Skiway and Ski Landing Area Criteria*.

1.3.4. **Phoenix Airfield (NZFX).** Airfield is located approximately 10 NM Grid North of McMurdo Station. Phoenix runway is constructed of compacted snow for wheeled operations. The runway is 200' X 10,000' and oriented Grid 33/15.

1.3.4.1. Phoenix Runway is used primarily to support heavy airlift wheeled operations and was certified for use by C-17 and C-130/LC-130 aircraft in November 2016. Other aircraft are evaluated by NSF Operations Manager and Airfield Manager prior to aircraft operation.

1.3.4.2. Phoenix Airfield is serviced by TACAN, MLS and RNAV approaches.

1.3.4.3. Phoenix Airfield Operations and Restrictions.

1.3.4.3.1. To the maximum extent possible, aircraft arrivals should be to runway 15 and departures to runway 33 to reduce the number of passes on the runway. When departing runway 33, ensure aircraft are 500 feet from threshold lights for departure to prevent damage to lights.

1.3.4.3.2. Turnarounds. All aircraft arriving runway 33 shall accomplish 180 degree turns in the overrun. All aircraft when departing runway 15 shall accomplish 180 degree turns in the overrun. Do not turn around on any other portion of the runway. Do not turn around in the graded area (non-stressed) where all the runway markers and flags delineate the non-stressed area of the runway and/or overrun.

1.3.4.3.3. Marshaller and/or “follow me vehicle” shall lead all aircraft to parking for all arrivals and departures to and from the ramp. Aircraft shall not enter or depart ramp without a marshaller.

1.3.4.3.4. Do not enter runway until ready for departure.

1.3.4.3.5. Phoenix Airfield and ARFF status reports are published daily.

1.3.4.4. Engine Running Operations will be approved by USAP Airfield Manager. All prop aircraft arriving or departing will be expected to shutdown to prevent damage to the airfield surfaces.

1.3.4.4.1. Maintenance engine runs shall be in areas with exhaust directed off of airfield areas. Notify Mac Center of requirement for aircraft heat 2 hours prior to arrival.

1.3.4.5. Ground Operations. Use caution when surface definitions are reported poor or nil during movements on apron and runway.

1.3.4.5.1. Ground operations of engines should be kept to the minimum practical for safe operations. Take all practical measures to minimize exhaust and thermal damage to airfield surfaces.

1.3.4.5.1.1. Minimize taxi times and braking on runway and ramp.

1.3.4.5.1.2. Taxi with flaps up.

1.3.4.5.1.3. Do not remain stationary on runway.

1.3.4.5.2. Aircrews are responsible to signal when ground personnel can approach the aircraft to start offload.

1.3.4.5.3. Passengers will remain onboard all aircraft until ATO rep arrives at the aircraft for passengers.

1.3.4.6. The Airfield Manager or designated representative will coordinate operational waivers through the 13 AEG/CC.

1.3.4.7. All LC-130 aircraft shall land/taxi on wheels when landing at Phoenix Airfield unless otherwise advised by NOTAM or airfield status. Phoenix Airfield may be used for LC-130 divers, but must pilots must comply with airfield status report to the maximum extent possible to protect the runway surface.

1.3.5. **McMurdo Heliport.** McMurdo heliports are located on the Grid northwest side of McMurdo Station and constructed on prepared gravel, populated with cement pads on the lower heliport.

1.3.5.1. There are two heliports, distinguished by levels, adjacent to one another. The lower level (elevation 60 feet MSL) has six helipads. The upper level (elevation 75 feet MSL) has two helipads. The McMurdo heliport is uncontrolled. All helicopters on the upper pads will avoid flying over helicopters on the lower pads.

1.3.5.2. Both NSF and Antarctica New Zealand (ANTNZ) contract aircraft provide support to field parties within 200 miles of McMurdo Station, to include Marble Point.

1.3.6. **Marble Point Heliport.** Marble Point Heliport is approximately 45 NM Grid SSE from McMurdo Station and constructed on semi-prepared rock. It is uncontrolled and serves as a staging area and refueling station for helicopter support for numerous science parties in the Dry Valleys.

1.3.7. **Jack F. Paulus South Pole Skiway (NZSP).** The South Pole skiway is located at the South Pole Station approximately 730 NM Grid North from McMurdo. The skiway is 12,000' x 220' and oriented Grid 02/20.

1.3.7.1. Clean Air Area. Reference **Attachment 4**.

1.3.7.2. Cargo drifting (ski-combat offload) is authorized on the ramp, but must be pre-coordinated with the South Pole Station Operations Manager a minimum of 45 minutes in advance of landing, thus ensuring cargo personnel can support ramp clearing operations and that equipment operations can make repairs to the apron surface, if necessary. Coordination can be accomplished through SP communications.

## **1.4. Ramp Operations.**

1.4.1. Phoenix Airfield runway and ramp.

1.4.1.1. Phoenix Airfield is an uncontrolled airfield, and no tower services are available.

1.4.1.2. Pilots will operate under their own cognizance and provide their own obstacle separation.

1.4.2. Williams Field skiway and ramp.

1.4.2.1. When the control tower is operational at Williams Field, ATC has sole authority to clear an aircraft onto the skiways. Taxiways at all airfields are non-movement areas.

### **NOTE:**

Skier Maintenance controls the ramp.

1.4.2.2. For operations on the Skier (LC-130) ramp, pilots will also notify "Skier Maintenance" (139 EAS Maintenance Control) on VHF 123.45 MHz prior to starting engines and prior to initiating any movement on the ramp as an advisory call only.

1.4.2.3. Skier Maintenance will provide aircraft marshalling for LC-130s. NSF Prime Contractor (AGE) personnel will provide other aircraft marshalling services.

1.4.2.4. Skier Maintenance controls sequencing at the fuel pits.

1.4.2.5. Loading or unloading in refueling pits with a sled (once adequate spacing is assured), or single loader, is authorized upon coordination with McMurdo Air Terminal Operations (ATO) through Skier Maintenance. Aircraft will contact “Skier Maintenance” (139 EAS Maintenance Control) is available on VHF 123.45 MHz.

**NOTE:**

The use of sleds (specialized cargo loading sleds) in the fuel pits is a standard operation. The USAP Airfield Manager may discontinue this practice if fuel pit conditions become degraded.

1.4.2.6. LC-130 aircraft are approved to combat offload (drift cargo) on the backside of the ramp in front of the Cargo Yard. Prior coordination between the user and Skier Maintenance is required.

**NOTE:**

The USAP Airfield Manager may restrict combat offloads due to poor ramp conditions.

1.4.2.6.1. Aircraft Commander shall notify Skier Maintenance of intent to combat off-load cargo as soon as determined, but at least 30 minutes prior to arrival. Skier Maintenance shall in turn notify the USAP Airfield Manager, McMurdo ATO, and Williams Field Tower.

1.4.2.6.2. Skier Maintenance and the Aircraft Commander shall ensure the combat offload area is clear of personnel and equipment prior to commencing combat offload.

1.4.2.7. Skier Maintenance shall coordinate all engine runs with Tower and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) prior to engine run. ARFF vehicles on standby shall not be parked closer than 500 feet from centerline of runway.

## **1.5. Adverse Weather Landing Sites/Diverts**

1.5.1. When adverse weather conditions occur, an aircraft may be unable to complete an instrument approach to the Williams Field skiway or Phoenix Airfield.

1.5.2. Currently there are no adverse weather landing sites available for wheeled aircraft in Antarctica. Aircrew must ensure sufficient reserve fuel is carried to allow diverting to an alternate airfield off continent.

1.5.3. **Mario Zucchelli Station (MZS) (Terra Nova Bay - NZTB).** The Italian Antarctic Program builds Terra Nova Bay Ice Runway seasonally on “fast ice” in Terra Nova Bay. This seasonal sea ice runway is operational from late October through early December. However, it may not be operational every season or its operations may be terminated early due to adverse ice conditions. Its primary purpose is to support the Italian Antarctic Program airlift. Normally, NZTB is included in the NOTAM system as updated by Mac Center and can be used as an emergency divert when open. At other times, when NZTB is confirmed operational by the Italians (communicated through the 139 EAS/CC), LC/C-130 Aircraft Commanders may use NZTB as an emergency divert.

1.5.3.1. Approximate location is 74° 41.0’S, 164° 06.7’E; 190 miles grid south (True North) of McMurdo Station.

1.5.3.2. Ice Runway Alignment and Dimensions: 026T/206T, 10,000 feet x 250 feet.

**NOTE:**

Runways are oriented to True North.

1.5.3.3. Due to high terrain (3400 feet 2 NM southwest of the runway) the designated runway for landing is 21T and for takeoff 03T. There is a non-directional beacon (NDB) servicing MZS – identifier NZTB, with an associated NDB/GPS approach.

**NOTE:**

Headings are TRUE headings and may change from season to season.

1.5.3.4. Terra Nova Bay (TNB) Handout references a runway layout and communications plan. Copies are available (should include NDB approach) at CHC Base Operations and Mac Center, once Terra Nova Bay Seasonal Sea Ice Runway is operational. The TNB facilities and runway layout can also be found in the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM).

1.5.3.5. Terra Nova Bay Operations maintains a listening watch on HF 5.371 kHz during scheduled Italian flight operations.

**1.5.4. Whiteout Landing Area.** A Whiteout Landing Area has been established on the Ross Ice Shelf, for ski-only landings, when landings are not possible on prepared surfaces due to weather or other factors.

1.5.4.1. The NSF Prime Contractor annually surveys and certifies the Whiteout Landing Area prior to the commencement of LC-130 operations to ensure the area is free of crevasses or obstructions.

1.5.4.2. The Whiteout Landing Area is inspected annually by the NSF Prime Contractor to verify it remains obstruction free for Whiteout landings.

1.5.4.3. SOPP develops a Whiteout Area approach plate each season. The approach plate shall include navigational guidance from all McMurdo area airfields to the whiteout area.

**1.5.5. New Zealand Emergency Airfields/ Divert Procedures.**

1.5.5.1. Primary recovery base will be Christchurch IAP, NZ; the secondary recovery base is Auckland IAP, NZ, for C-17, and Wellington IAP for LC-130 aircraft. Other NZ airfields are available as divert locations. Reference DoD FLIP Pacific Enroute Supplement for information on potential divert locations.

1.5.5.2. Aircrews should contact Christchurch operations as soon as possible with ETA to divert base.

**NOTE:**

Christchurch operations will notify divert airfield base operations or airport control. Customs, agriculture, etc. will be requested as required.

1.5.5.3. Once on the ground at the alternate/diversion airfield, LC-130 Aircraft Commanders will contact 13 AEG Det 1 Representative by telephone. Collect calls are acceptable. C-17 Aircraft Commanders must notify CHC Base Operations and 304 EAS/CC or DO.

## **1.6. Airfield Construction, Markings and Lighting**

1.6.1. USAP primary airfields and outlying camps that support fixed-wing aircraft operations are constructed and marked by the NSF Prime Contractor in accordance with the specifications contained in AFI 13-217, *Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations* Chapter 4, *LC-130 Skiway and Ski Landing Area Criteria* and/or FC-3-260-06F. United States Navy is the TERPS certification authority for USAP Airfields. The Chief of Naval Operations has approved a permanent waiver for airfield lighting and marking allowing USAP airfields to be certified for IMC operations.

### **NOTE:**

Skiway and ice runway markings are installed as early in the season as practical.

### **1.6.2. Lighting**

1.6.2.1. Airfield lighting systems are established at Phoenix and Williams Fields. The NSF Prime Contractor maintains airfield markings and lighting systems in accordance with AFMAN 32-1076, *Design Standards for Visual Air Navigation Facilities*.

1.6.2.2. International orange windsocks are installed on the approach ends (left side) of all skiways and ice runways.

1.6.2.3. Short Simplified Approach Lighting with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (SSALR) lighting systems may be installed on active primary runways of Phoenix, and Williams Fields IAW Air Force Manuals.

1.6.2.3.1. Approach lighting intensity settings are consistent with AF requirements and follow FAAO 7110.65 regulations. ATC Tower personnel use those settings for setup and operations. For desired changes in intensity at Williams Fields, aircrews should notify ATC Tower personnel as soon as possible prior to expected landing.

### **NOTE:**

AFLC's (Airfield Lighting Computer) is installed and remotely controls airfield lighting.

1.6.2.4. Runway End Identifier Lighting System (REILS) is a portable lighting system that provides a rapid and positive identification of the end of the runway located in line with, and outboard of, the threshold lighting of the primary instrument runway/skiway for Williams Field and Phoenix Runway.

1.6.2.4.1. The REILS system consists of synchronized flashing white lights.

### **NOTE:**

Approach lights and REILS are capable of being operational simultaneously at Phoenix and Williams Fields. REILS are serviced and maintained by SOPP Ground Electronics.

Maintenance and the Approach lights are maintained by the NSF Prime Contractor. The REILS are remote controlled and may be activated by selecting the appropriate VHF frequency (published annually by SOPP) and keying the transmitter 5 times within a 10 second window.

1.6.2.4.2. Once activated, the REILS will remain in operation for approximately 15 minutes, deactivating automatically. The system may be deactivated manually by keying the transmitter 7 times.

1.6.2.4.3. The REILS operate with three programmable intensity settings which must be manually selected by SOPP and are activated for an arriving aircraft 5 minutes prior to the aircraft's ETA when the ceiling and visibility is 3,000/5 or less, or upon pilot request.

1.6.2.5. Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) is a two box, two- or three-lamp system placed on the edge of the primary runway/skiway. The touchdown and 2.5-degree glide slope are not coincident with the MLS.

1.6.2.5.1. PAPIs are located at Phoenix, and Williams Fields only.

1.6.2.5.2. PAPI lights are installed at the approach end of the primary runway/skiway of each operating airfield. PAPI light intensity cannot be adjusted.

1.6.2.5.3. IR PAPI are available at Phoenix Field for C-17 use during austral winter NVG flights.

1.6.2.6. Due to the lack of runway edge lighting and the minimal contrast between the runway edge and the surrounding ice, temporary High Intensity Retro-Reflective Runway Identification Markers (HIRRRIM) are utilized to aid in runway identification during C-17 austral winter flight operations.

1.6.2.6.1. The C-17 Mission Commander will coordinate with USAP Airfield Manager to ensure that HIRRRIM are installed properly and will brief the aircrew on the marker configuration.

1.6.2.6.2. Contact USAP Airfield Manager via email or (720) 568-1017 in McMurdo 48 hours prior to operations.

1.6.2.7. The NSF Prime Contractor also manages a set of temporary runway edge and threshold lighting to be used by non-DOD aviation service providers as required outside of the austral summer.

1.6.2.7.1. The Aircraft Commander will coordinate with USAP Airfield Manager or designated representative to ensure that temporary lighting is installed properly and will brief the aircrew on the marker configuration.

## 1.7. Airfield Navigation Aids and Instrument Approaches

### 1.7.1. Air Navigational Approach Aids.

#### **WARNING:**

All navigational and approach aids are intended strictly for use by USAP approved aircraft only. The use of NAVAIDs by non-USAP aircraft are strictly at the pilot's own risk.

1.7.1.1. TACAN approaches may be available at Phoenix and Williams Fields. These approaches are developed and normally certified annually to minimums of 300 feet and 1 mile. Minimums may change due to seasonal proximity of runway(s)/skiways to terrain. TACAN based departure procedures are available at Phoenix and Williams Fields.

1.7.1.2. Precision MLS approaches are operational at Phoenix and Williams Fields. MLS approaches are developed and certified annually to minimums of 200 feet and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

1.7.1.3. RNAV (GPS) arrivals and approaches are available at Phoenix, and Williams Fields, and South Pole Station. All approaches are developed and certified annually.

1.7.1.4. Airborne Radar Approaches (ARA) (LC-130 only) approaches are normally certified to 300 feet and 1 mile. Minimums may change due to seasonal proximity of runways/ skiways to terrain.

1.7.2. Instrument flyability checks, as stated in AFMAN 11-230 Attachment 9, *Instrument Procedures*, are flown by aircrews to ensure procedures are safe, practical, and consistent with good operating procedures.

1.7.3. SOPP ensures development, submission, review, approval, and use of instrument approach procedures in the Antarctic are consistent with DoD policies.

1.7.4. The DCJTF-SFA or designee, in accordance with the NSF-DoD MOA, authorizes interim IFR flight certification of instrument arrivals, approaches, and departures until FAA flight checks are completed in mid to late October and final instrument procedures are published.

1.7.5. IFR ARAs are developed by SPAWAR, reviewed by the 109 OG/OGV (Stan/Eval), and approved by NAVFIG. These ARAs are approved for LC-130 aircrew use only. Minimums for approved IFR ARAs are as published. Upon ARA clearance, pilot assumes responsibility for terrain and obstacle clearance. ATC retains responsibility for separation of IFR aircraft.

## 1.8. Airfield Status Reports.

### 1.8.1. The USAP Airfield Manager:

1.8.1.1. Southbound flights: Provides to Charleston ROF and Mac Center, via email using the airfield status update form, the airfield information for Williams Field (NZWD), Phoenix Airfield (NZFX), and South Pole (NZSP), no later than **6 hours prior** to a scheduled departure from Christchurch, for all southbound flights. Attachment 6 contains an example of the airfield status update.

1.8.1.2. On-Continent flights: Provides to Charleston ROF and Mac Center, via email using the airfield status update form, all Field Camp status reports and the airfield information for Williams Field (NZWD), Phoenix Airfield (NZFX), and South Pole (NZSP) no later than **3 hours prior** to the first scheduled departure for all on-continent flights. All USAP aviation agencies will coordinate with the Fixed/Rotary Wing Coordinator to ensure accuracy of all field camp data.

1.8.2. Air Traffic Control personnel:

1.8.2.1. Compile all McMurdo Airfield Status Reports, receive and review airfield status update forms from the airfield manager or his designated representative, review and update the status of SOPP equipment (TACAN, MLS, PAPI, REILS, HF Communication, and SATCOM), and disseminate to the appropriate email distribution list. To be added to the Airfield Status report distribution list, please email [atc.chs@usap.gov](mailto:atc.chs@usap.gov). Notify USAP Airfield Manager of discrepancies in the Airfield Status Report.

1.8.2.2. Post all status reports in Flight Planning area no later than 3 hours prior to the first scheduled departure for all on-continent flights. This information will be e-mailed to the 139 EAS Supervisor of Flying (SOF) in Raven Operations. Mac Center will post a copy of the current Airfield status report in Flight Planning.

**1.9. Runway Condition Reading (RCR) and Runway Surface Condition (RSC).**

1.9.1. RCR checks are conducted as required due to changing weather conditions, or as requested by aircrew for Phoenix Runway. RSC reports detail surface conditions and snow thickness. During RCR/RSC checks, the entire length of the runway is examined. If there are significant differences noted between sections of any runway, this difference is reported in the RSC report and passed to the USAP Airfield Manager. No RCR reports are provided for skiways; RSC only.

1.9.2. The USAP Airfield Manager or designated representative is responsible for forwarding the airfield information to all personnel on the MCM-Airfield-Reports list server. CHS ROF will update the airfield status report and distribute via the USAP Airfield Status Report list server.

1.9.3. During the Austral Winter flights at Phoenix Airfield, the RCR and airfield status report for the airfields are accomplished by the NSF's Prime Contractor Fleet Operations personnel at the end of the duty day prior to a scheduled flight and called into Mac Center. If weather conditions change, which could affect the RCR, RSC or airfield status, the NSF Prime Contractor Fleet Operations will accomplish another RCR, RSC and airfield status report at the earliest opportunity.

**1.10. Airspace System.**

1.10.1. By Letter of Agreement (LOA) with Airways Corporation of New Zealand Limited (AWC) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of New Zealand, Mac Center has been delegated the following airspace from Auckland Oceanic Control Center, which is within the Auckland Flight Information Region (FIR). This airspace is known as the McMurdo Sector. It is defined as all the airspace over the continent of Antarctica and south of a line joining 60° S/163°E, 60° S/174°E, 73°30'S/131°W, 90° S/131° W, and 60° S/163°E.

1.10.2. The McMurdo Sector is activated for USAP flight periods and will be depicted on DoD or other aviation charts and publications. The system includes airspace designated as Class A, D, E, and G.

1.10.3. **Class A:** Within the McMurdo Sector, applicable to all aircraft, includes the airspace beginning at Flight Level 245 up to and including Flight Level 600.

1.10.4. **Class D:** The area around the operating control tower at Williams Field is designated Class D airspace. The area is a 4.3 NM (5 SM) radius from the center of the airport surface up to and including 2500 AGL. Two-way radio contact with the control tower is mandatory prior to entering Class D airspace.

1.10.5. **Class E:** Class E airspace is controlled airspace within 100 NM of Williams Field or Phoenix Airfield TACANs extending from the surface up to, but not including, FL 245 (excluding Class D airspace).

**NOTE:**

Aircraft may operate under VFR within Class E airspace from the surface up to the floor of Class A airspace.

1.10.6. **Class G:** All other airspace is considered class G or uncontrolled. All USAP support aircraft operating in this airspace comply with ICAO Standard Airfield Reporting Procedures and command or company policies for air operations.

**WARNING:**

For USAP participating aircraft, Class A airspace extends over the entire continent of Antarctica. Additionally, Class D and E airspace is applicable to USAP participating aircraft. All other aircraft are encouraged to recognize established airspace categories to ensure flight safety.

## **1.11. Air Traffic Control.**

1.11.1. SPAWARSSYSCEN Atlantic's Office of Polar Programs (SOPP) is responsible for providing air traffic control and flight advisory services for all aircraft operating in the McMurdo sector of the Auckland FIR.

1.11.2. Services: McMurdo ATC provides Procedural Enroute/Oceanic Air Traffic Control, flight following, Non Radar Approach Control, VFR Control Tower services and Search and Rescue coordination. These services are provided for aircraft operating south of 60° South latitude in the McMurdo Sector and USAP flights operating over the Antarctic Continent. Other Antarctic ATC agencies may assist Mac Center in providing these services.

1.11.2.1. Mac Center coordinates with Auckland Center for flights between Antarctica and New Zealand, and Melbourne Center for flights between Antarctica and Australia. The transfer of control and responsibility between Mac Center and Auckland Center is 60° South latitude. The transfer of control point between Mac Center and Melbourne is the FIR boundary along 163° East Longitude.

1.11.3. SOPP, 62d/446th and 109th Air Wings develop approach plates, standard route and GPS RNAV STARS annually. ATC may descend IFR inbound aircraft via the published routing. Aircrews shall

comply with published minimum enroute altitudes (MEA) unless restricted by ATC.

1.11.4. ATC-provided services for McMurdo Station Area:

1.11.4.1. Mac Center provides procedural enroute/oceanic air traffic control, flight following, and search and rescue coordination services to all USAP participants operating over the Antarctic continent. In addition, Mac Center provides non-radar Approach/Control Services in Class E airspace within 100 NM of Phoenix and Williams Fields below FL245 when there is no operating control tower.

1.11.4.2. Remote Operating Facility (ROF). ROF is a functional mirror facility of Mac Center, physically located in Charleston, SC, capable of remotely providing all Mac Center services. Specific products prepared or maintained by the ROF are listed below:

- Movement report notifications for all USAP aircraft to include arrival, departure, delay and turnarounds
- Pre Flight Briefing Services
- Flight Planning Services
- Enroute Flight Advisory Service (EFAS)
- Emergency activation/deactivation
- SAR activation and termination
- Aircraft movement report notifications
- Airfield status report dissemination

To be added to a distribution list for any of these products, please email: [atc.chs@usap.gov](mailto:atc.chs@usap.gov).

1.11.4.3. Tower is responsible for providing:

- air traffic control services to aircraft within Class D airspace.
- non-radar arrival and departure services in Class E airspace.
- traffic advisories and Air Traffic Control service for VFR and IFR aircraft within Class D and E airspace.
- air traffic control service to aircraft within Class D airspace.

1.11.4.4. Mac Center provides traffic advisory service for VFR and IFR aircraft outside Class D airspace.

1.11.5. Visual Separation.

1.11.5.1. Aircraft cleared to maintain visual separation must remain in VMC until other approved IFR separation can be applied.

1.11.5.2. Visual separation clearances will be applied in accordance with procedures set forth in FAAO 7110.65 rules and regulations.

1.11.5.3. Visual separation is authorized up to the base of Class A airspace.

1.11.6. Emergency Procedures.

1.11.6.1. The emergency procedures section of the DoD FLIP Flight Information Handbook and or applicable ICAO documents apply to all USAP aircraft.

1.11.7. Aircraft Emergency/Mishap and Overdue Flight Plan Alert Procedure.

1.11.7.1. In the event of an overdue flight plan, ATC (Mac Center or Tower) alerts the McMurdo Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will coordinate and direct emergency response and rescue efforts.

1.11.7.2. ATC (Mac Center or Tower) alerts the following primary emergency response providers, based upon the location of the aircraft emergency, or the intended destination of an aircraft declaring an in-flight emergency.

1.11.7.2.1. At McMurdo area airfields, ATC activates the airport emergency response plan by notifying McMurdo “Firehouse” via CH-2.

1.11.7.2.2. At South Pole, Mac Center activates the airport emergency response plan by notifying the South Pole Operations Center via HF radio or other approved means.

1.11.7.2.3. At USAP field locations, no dedicated airport emergency response resources exist. ATC will activate the McMurdo EOC and ATC will notify the camp manager or other communications operator (if applicable) to alert them to the emergency at their location.

1.11.7.2.4. At non-USAP location...

1.11.7.2.5. Along with the emergency declaration, the ATC (or the aircraft) will provide as much of the following additional information as possible to the appropriate notification center:

- aircraft identification,
- aircraft position,
- nature of emergency,
- fuel on-board in pounds,
- number of persons onboard,
- pilot intentions, and
- any other pertinent information.

1.11.7.3. At McMurdo and South Pole, emergency response resources will be dispatched according to their respective airport emergency response plans. At all other locations, the McMurdo EOC will coordinate and direct emergency response and rescue efforts.

1.11.7.4. Discrete Emergency Frequency (DEF) - VHF 122.8 MHz

1.11.7.4.1. DEF shall be established at McMurdo and South Pole Station airfields for

coordination of emergency communications between ATC, ARFF Incident Command, and flight crews.

1.11.7.4.2. The DEF shall be used only once authorized by ATC during an ongoing aircraft emergency. Once authorized, ATC shall direct both the emergency aircraft and the ARFF Incident Commander to switch to the DEF

1.11.7.4.3. When the DEF is in use, ATC will issue control instructions and information to the flight crew and ARFF vehicles on the DEF

1.11.7.5. Mac Center/Tower notifies Raven Operations or the aviation activity involved in an emergency. Mac Center notifies the Mac Center Manager/Air Traffic Manager (ATM) of all incidents, mishaps, or emergencies on or near the airfields of McMurdo.

1.11.7.6. All concerned agencies are alerted via email by Charleston ROF. To be added to the Emergency distribution list please email [atc.chs@usap.gov](mailto:atc.chs@usap.gov).

1.11.7.7. The ATM collects controller statements and ensures the tapes are safeguarded IAW FAAO 7210.3 *Facility Operation and Administration* and FAAO 8020.11 *Aircraft Accident and Notification, Investigation and Reporting*.

1.11.7.8. In the event of DoD involved assets, the 13 AEG/CC, in coordination with the NSF Representative/Station Manager, designates the appropriate military representative who has received aviation safety officer training to initiate the safety/mishap investigation procedures, to include the collection and preservation of evidence, IAW AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigation and Reports*.

## **1.12. Flight Following.**

1.12.1. Flights north of 60° South latitude and operating between McMurdo Station and New Zealand are under the control of Auckland Center or Melbourne Flight Service Center.

1.12.2. Mac Center or Charleston ROF provides enroute flight guard, air traffic control and advisory service for all USAP sponsored aircraft operating at all altitudes above the surface in the McMurdo Sector.

1.12.3. Mac Center also provides the above services to all known aircraft operating in the McMurdo Sector that includes the area noted in para 1.10.1 and within a sector defined by longitudes 163°E and 131°W to the geographic South Pole. Exceptions are:

1.12.3.1. Independent support missions at outlying stations.

1.12.3.2. Aircraft remaining under shipboard control and operating more than 15 miles from the Williams Field TACAN below 500 feet altitude.

1.12.3.3. Aircraft under the control of the Williams Field tower.

1.12.3.4. All non-USAP aircraft that are operating outside the boundaries of McMurdo Sector.

1.12.4. Mac Center Provides Helicopter Flight Following (HFF) to helicopter in the local flying area and may operate in the deep field providing localized services to deep field camps.

1.12.4.1. HFF Responsibilities. General HFF duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Provide flight following for the safety of flight.
- If in the field, Call Mac Center on Iridium phone at the commencement and discontinuance of helicopter operations each day.
- Conduct communications search for overdue helicopters.
- Advise MCWS of overdue aircraft.
- When requested, provide Visual Flight Rules (VFR) advisories and flight assistance.
- Neatly maintain and retain daily helicopter flight following form and position log.
- Return forms and logs to Mac Center for retention (if in field camp)

1.12.4.2. Flight Following Procedures

1.12.4.2.1. Contractually, all USAP helicopters will maintain flight following by communicating each takeoff, landing, and every 30 minutes enroute to the HFF.

1.12.4.2.2. During helicopter operations, the HFF position shall be staffed at all times.

1.12.4.2.3. Flight Plan. A departure flight plan shall include: departure point, destination, estimated time enroute, people on board (including the pilot and helitech), and fuel on board.

1.12.4.2.4. Enroute/Position Report. An enroute call shall include: operations status (i.e. normal) and position report. The pilot may elect to amend the enroute time to destination during this call but if that does not occur, the original enroute time will remain.

1.12.4.2.5. Arrival. An arrival transmission may include: location where landing and duration of time planned on the ground.

1.12.4.2.6. Flight Follow Local. A “flight follow local” flight plan means the pilot is flying the helicopter in a general area conducting multiple landings and departures with different numbers of people on board. The pilot shall file a local flight plan and advise the HFF where their local flying will take place, their enroute time, and their fuel on board. The maximum amount of time available for a local flight plan is 30 minutes. The pilot may extend local flying time in 30 minute increments.

1.12.4.2.7. Ground Time/ Delay. Ground time/delay means the helicopter has landed and will remain on the ground for a specified amount of time. The pilot will report landing at destination and the duration of his expected ground time/delay. The maximum amount of time available for ground time/delay is 2 hours. The pilot will contact Mac Center to amend this time in up to 2-hour increments. The following locations are exempt from the 2 hour ground time/delay maximum: Scott Base, Marble Point and Lake Hoare. Ground time/delay shall still be reported at these locations, but may be longer than 2 hour increments.

1.12.4.2.8. Automated Flight Following (AFF). Radio and telephone communications between

the helicopter pilot and the HFF are the primary flight following tools. AFF is a secondary flight following tool. Contractually, all USAP helicopters must have an AFF unit and SATCOM installed in the aircraft. Mac Center will ensure the helicopters are visible on the AFF during initial commencement radio (or Iridium phone if in the field) call.

1.12.4.2.9. Navigation. All references regarding direction/headings to/from helicopters shall be in TRUE unless otherwise stated.

1.12.4.2.10. Weather Minimums. Contractually, USAP helicopters will operate under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) only.

1.12.5. AFF.GOV. All USAP contractor operated aircraft are equipped with a combined satellite communications and AFF system (Sky-Trac System ISAT-1000 or equivalent). The systems report at a minimum of 2 minute intervals and are registered with the U.S. Government's aff.gov site (managed by NIFC/USFS in Boise, ID).

1.12.5.1. AFF.GOV is an online government application that automatically tracks the location and velocity of specially-equipped aircraft and mobile assets and provides this information in near-real-time to dispatchers, aviation managers, and other authorized users.

1.12.5.2. Utilizing geolocation and data communications devices installed in government-registered aircraft. AFF.GOV tracks position speed, altitude, heading, and transmits the data via satellite to a ground-based flight-monitoring system. AFF.GOV tracks contract aircraft around the globe.

1.12.5.3. AFF.GOV benefits include improved detection and response to emergencies; reduced workload in aircraft and dispatch centers; reduced radio traffic and pilot "heads down time"; enhanced situational awareness for all users.

1.12.5.4. It is the goal of USAP to maximize the number of registered users of AFF.GOV compatible systems beyond contracted aircraft to include DoD, partner nations, commercial NGO users and more in order to better present a "fused" air picture across the continent for safety and emergency SAR response.

### **1.13. Flight Reports.**

1.13.1. Pilots shall provide Auckland Center/Mac Center and Christchurch Base Operations with a departure report as soon as practical after establishing initial HF or VHF radio contact. Fixed-wing VFR aircraft departing Williams Field will give their departure report to the tower when the airfield is controlled. During periods Williams Field is uncontrolled, fixed-wing VFR aircraft will make their departure reports to CHS ROF via Iridium.

1.13.1.1. Departure reports shall include:

- departure station,
- actual time of departure (ATD),
- destination,
- estimated time of arrival (ETA),
- enroute altitude,

- ETA at first reporting point,
- ETA at 60° South (if required),
- ETA at PSR (for southbound intercontinental flights only), and
- any applicable remarks.

1.13.2. IFR fixed-wing aircraft shall make position reports at compulsory reporting points along the route of flight in standard ICAO format.

1.13.3. Pilots landing at locations not having flight guard capability will advise Mac Center of their point of intended landing, estimated landing time, and estimated time of departure.

1.13.4. Aircrew shall attempt contact with Mac Center after landing and prior to takeoff. Hourly “ops normal” radio calls will be made to Mac Center while on the ground unless other arrangements are coordinated between the Aircraft Commander and Mac Center.

1.13.5. Fixed-wing VFR aircraft will report flight position at hourly intervals.

**WARNING:**

Aircraft separation services are not provided for VFR aircraft.

**1.14. Aviation Meteorological Services.**

1.14.1. SOPP Meteorology provides meteorological services to USAP participants and partners’ aviation service providers from the McMurdo Weather Office at McMurdo Station and the SOPP Remote Operations Facility (ROF) in Charleston, South Carolina. Aviation meteorological forecasting services for Antarctic continental sites, other than McMurdo, are provided remotely by the SOPP ROF.

1.14.1.1. The McMurdo Weather Office provides aviation meteorological services for USAP aircraft missions originating at McMurdo and routinely issues METAR and SPECI (Aviation Selected Special Weather Report) observations and TAFs (Terminal Area Forecasts) for the McMurdo active airfields. The weather office performs over-the-counter flight weather briefings and can provide weather updates by Iridium telephone or UHF broadcast when patched through by Mac Operations.

1.14.1.2. The SOPP ROF routinely issues TAFs for selected USAP field camps and South Pole station. It also hosts the flight weather briefing for USAP aircrews of southbound missions originating at Christchurch, New Zealand via web-conference with Christchurch USAP Base Operations. The SOPP ROF can provide voice weather updates for continental and intercontinental missions via Iridium or other telephone systems.

1.14.1.3. A flight weather packet will be provided for all scheduled flights. The continental flight weather packet will contain a Flight Weather Briefing (DD Form 175-1) or VFR Briefing sheet and Flight Level Winds. The intercontinental flight weather packet will contain, at a minimum, a Flight Weather Briefing (DD Form 175-1), Flight Level Wind Charts, and a Significant Weather (SIGWX) Prognosis (FL100-FL450).

1.14.2. The delineation of the Met services SOPP provides to its customers and their expectations can be found in attachment 7.

## **1.15. Antarctic Airfield Management.**

### **1.15.1. General.**

1.15.1.1. Airfield Management of the McMurdo Station area airfields provides safe, efficient, and effective aircraft operations for all USAP participants.

1.15.1.2. Airfield management responsibility for the McMurdo airfields and South Pole Station resides with the NSF Prime Contractor's USAP Airfield Manager.

1.15.1.3. Airfield management responsibility for outlying camps resides with the NSF Prime Contractor through the camp manager/supervisor.

1.15.1.4. All exercises, traverses or training taking place on or near McMurdo or South Pole airfields and Whiteout Area are prior-coordinated with the NSF Representative/Station Manager, 13 AEG/CC, USAP Airfield Manager and SOPP Site Manager a minimum seven (7) working days in advance.

1.15.1.4.1. Failure to coordinate in advance could result in hazardous conditions requiring the USAP Airfield Manager to suspend airfield operations until the hazard(s) is (are) terminated. The coordination is to ensure events or exercises shall not impact the safe, continuous operations of airfields.

### **1.15.2. Airfield Preparation and Maintenance.**

1.15.2.1. Skiways: Williams Field and South Pole skiways and associated ramp and taxiway areas will be prepared and maintained by the NSF Prime Contractor to ensure a smooth and compact surface for use by ski-equipped aircraft.

1.15.2.2. Preparation and maintenance generally include grading, chaining, and rolling to obtain the desired surface conditions. The NSF Prime contractor should ensure that skiway surfaces are groomed in a timely manner following surface disturbance/damage by weather, to minimize impact on scheduled flight operations. This is especially important during the operating season to eliminate snowdrifts, windrows (caused by vehicle traffic), and ruts created by aircraft skis.

1.15.2.3. Runways: The Phoenix Runway and associated taxiway areas are graded smooth and may have a firmly compacted snow pavement, and up to one-inch depth of loose snow; ramps are graded and may have surface covers similar to the runways.

### **1.15.3. Airfield Standards.**

1.15.3.1. The criteria outlined in FC 3-260-06F, *Air Force Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Evaluation of Snow and Ice Airfields in Antarctica*, set the standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of Phoenix Airfield. AFI 13-217, *Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations* Chapter 4, *LC-130 Skiway and Ski Landing Area Criteria* set the standard for USAP skiways.

1.15.3.2. To ensure flight safety, the USAP Airfield Manager, SOPP Manager and Airlift management personnel are advised on all construction activities on or near the airfields during periods of flight operations. Airfield waiver requests to the published clear zone criteria must be received a minimum of 90 days prior to the construction. Justification for non-compliance must be included in the request.

1.15.3.3. The Runway Lateral Clear Zones at the Williams Field Skiway and Phoenix Airfield are established at 500 feet, measured from the centerline of the runway. No objects, including aircraft or structures, shall be sited within the Runway Lateral Clear Zones. Exception: Navigational aids and lighting.

1.15.3.4. The runway and skiway maintenance crews and inspection personnel utilize the following standards:

1.15.3.4.1. Airport markings will be in accordance with Air Force Manual 32-1076, AFI 13-217, and FC-3-260-06F and free from snow accumulation and other obstructions. These markings apply to:

- approach lights,
- distance, threshold and low visibility markers,
- taxiway/ramp lights, and /or
- flags.

1.15.3.4.2. All runway lights and markers must be visible from an inspecting vehicle when located at the center point of runway.

#### 1.15.4. Skiway and Runway Standards:

1.15.4.1. Normally, an additional 100 feet of prepared surface is added to the width of the last 300 feet of each runway (skiway) to provide for a turnaround area.

1.15.4.2. Runways will be groomed frequently - often daily. Skiways are graded and groomed often daily and always immediately after new snow accumulation.

1.15.4.3. Both Skiway and Phoenix Runway ramps and taxiways will be groomed smooth. Additionally, Phoenix Runway ramps and taxiways can have up to two inches of loose snow cover.

#### 1.15.5. NSF Prime Contractor's USAP Airfield Manager Responsibilities

1.15.5.1. Maintenance of Phoenix Airfield, Williams Field Skiway, and South Pole Skiway to ensure safe conditions for flight operations.

1.15.5.2. Maintenance of Access roads between McMurdo Station and the airfields to ensure safe conditions for flight operations.

1.15.5.3. Assurance that airfield checks and inspections are performed on a daily basis and after any event (heavy snowfall, numerous aircraft operations, high winds, etc.) that may affect the

condition of the runway/skiway or ramp area.

**NOTE:**

The USAP Airfield Manager has the authority to close/suspend and resume airfield, runway/skiway or taxiway operations. Time permitting; this will be done with the concurrence of the NSF Representative/Station Manager and 13AEG/CC.

**1.15.6. South Pole Station/Outlying Camp Supervisor.**

1.15.6.1. Station/Camp Supervisors of outlying camps shall designate a representative or personally make daily inspections (more frequently if conditions warrant) of skiways, taxiways and ramp facilities.

1.15.6.2. All Station/Camp Supervisors shall report daily, no later than 0600L, the current airfield status, to include Material Handling Equipment (MHE) and fuel availability, through Mac Operations who, in turn, phone or radio-patch the individual to the Fixed Wing Coordinator. Changes to airfield status are reported daily in the same manner.

1.15.6.3. Station/Camp Supervisors are required to communicate with the USAP Airfield Manager regarding questionable issues that may impact aviation operations. Station/Camp Supervisors shall ensure weather observations are taken with sufficient frequency to support fixed wing flight operations.

**1.16. Austral Winter Flight Operations.**

1.16.1. The utilization of Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) (DoD) and temporary runway edge/threshold lights (non-DoD service providers) provides year-round capability to McMurdo offering a valuable means to move personnel and/or deliver supplies during the Austral Winter. NVG Operations will be conducted IAW AFI 11-2C-17V3 Addenda-C.

## **Chapter 2**

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) AND INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **2.1. Christchurch Operations.**

2.1.1. Each mission's success is the product of several agencies working together efficiently.

2.1.1.1. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the airlift user and has engaged its Prime Contractor to manage intercontinental operations.

2.1.1.2. As the lead agency for the USAP, the National Science Foundation is ultimately responsible for the prioritization of passengers and cargo.

2.1.1.3. Command and Control (C2) of DoD airlift remains the responsibility of the 13 AEG/CC for Operation DEEP FREEZE.

2.1.1.4. In addition, there are many other agencies involved in the planning and execution of USAP missions. Early recognition of problem areas or conflicts allows sufficient intervention time to ensure successful mission accomplishment.

2.1.2. NSF Prime Contractor, Christchurch:

2.1.2.1. Provides air terminal support at Christchurch NZ in cooperation with AMC detachment.

2.1.3. Aircrew Transportation. Transportation to/from work from hotels for 139 EAS crews, if not within walking distance, may be attained by taking the aircrew van or requesting complimentary shuttle service by the hotel.

2.1.4. The Christchurch SFA/PERSCO/First Sergeant will be provided a van for his/her mission duties.

2.1.5. Meals. Pre-flight meals are available in the hotel restaurant or near the airport at the "60 South" Restaurant or Spitfire Square, or as coordinated otherwise for off hours.

2.1.5.1. In-flight meals will be provided for all aircrew and passengers on intercontinental flights.

2.1.6. Passenger and Cargo Requirements.

2.1.6.1. Once operational requirements are determined, every attempt will be made to maximize allowable cargo loads (ACL) for each aircraft. This requires very close coordination among the aircrew and NSF Prime Contractor (Christchurch) / NZDF Terminal Operations.

2.1.7. Passenger Safety Briefings.

2.1.7.1. Passenger briefings will be accomplished on the aircraft or at the Antarctic Passenger Terminal (APT) by a qualified aircrew member for all flights.

2.1.8. Anti-Hijacking Passenger Processing and Awareness.

2.1.8.1. A passenger without a current passport, valid military identification card or NZ Driver's License (for NZ Citizens only) will not be allowed on flights to Antarctica.

2.1.8.2. False statements about hijacking, bombing, or carrying concealed weapons are violations of Federal and International law.

2.1.8.3. Federal and International laws forbid, except for items authorized in governing regulations, the carriage of hazardous materials aboard aircraft in a passenger's checked or carry-on baggage/packages.

2.1.8.4. If a passenger has questions and is unable to ascertain if the item is unauthorized, the suspected item shall be called to the attention of APT security and physically inspected. In this case, the passenger will open the baggage/package and remove the suspected item for inspection by an authorized agent (Aviation Security personnel). If the item is unauthorized, the passenger must follow locally established rules for disposition of the item.

2.1.8.5. NSF Prime Contractor (Christchurch) has developed controls to screen and maintain passengers and hand-carried items in a sterile environment from the time they have been screened until they are loaded on-board the aircraft.

2.1.8.6. Baggage/Passenger Matching.

2.1.8.6.1. No aircraft shall depart a station until terminal personnel are certain there is a positive match between passengers on-board the aircraft and the baggage on-board the aircraft. If a passenger is manifested on a flight and does not show for the flight, the baggage belonging to the passenger will be removed from the aircraft. Baggage can be processed via the cargo system and manifested as such.

2.1.8.6.2. Passenger baggage, except for hand carry, will be palletized unless the quantity does not justify the use of a pallet

2.1.8.7. Extreme Cold Weather Gear (ECW).

2.1.8.7.1. Extreme cold weather (ECW) gear is required for all personnel traveling to Antarctica.

2.1.8.7.2. Life Support personnel may arrange with NSF Prime Contractor personnel for issue of compatible ECW equipment from NSF supplies in Christchurch, if needed.

2.1.8.7.3. Passenger ECW gear will be worn/available.

2.1.8.8. The USAP has implemented drug/alcohol screening and combative passenger procedures as prescribed by applicable US Government policy.

**2.1.9. New Zealand Arrivals.**

2.1.9.1. There are two clearances given to the aircraft crew and passengers.

2.1.9.1.1. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) first clears the aircraft into country and ensures its contents are free of contraband.

**NOTE:**

This clearance does not authorize personnel to leave the aircraft.

2.1.9.1.2. The second clearance will come from the New Zealand Customs agent, who will release the crew and passengers from the aircraft to process through NZ customs at the international arrival terminal.

2.1.9.1.3. The Customs Duty Officer may exempt the aircrew from processing through the international arrival terminal.

2.1.9.2. A maximum of 11 crewmembers for C-17 and 12 (13 if a Flight Surgeon is part of the crew) crewmembers for LC/C-130 are allowed to be manifested on the General Declaration. The list may include mission essential personnel (MEP) as authorized.

2.1.9.2.1. When completing the General Declaration, the crew constituency includes the Aircraft Commander and the remaining crew, inclusive of MEPS. All other personnel must be manifested and processed as passengers.

2.1.9.3. All passengers and their baggage will be transported promptly to the international arrival area for processing by NZ Customs Service.

2.1.9.4. All passengers are required to complete a New Zealand Passenger arrival card and have in their possession a valid passport or military identification with valid orders, or other approved means of identification.

2.1.10. Smoking is prohibited in the secured area of the airfield and ramp. Smoking or alcohol consumption is not permitted on any USAP related flight.

**2.2. Christchurch Airport Ramp Operations.**

2.2.1. The Antarctic Apron is part of the Christchurch International Airport and as such, a Christchurch International Airport Ltd. (CIAL) Airside Operations Agreement governs ramp operations. All USAP aircrews and support personnel are required to adhere to this agreement.

2.2.2. Military personnel operating vehicles on CIAL ramps must comply with licensing and/or training requirements outlined in Operation DEEP FREEZE Reporting Instructions and Operation Order, if any.

2.2.3. Personnel will don reflective vests when on the ramp and flight line. They will also wear hearing protection when on/near the ramp area and in the vicinity of operating equipment or aircraft generating noise.

2.2.4. Smoking on the flight line or ramp area is prohibited at all times.

2.2.5. In any emergency, notify the Airport Fire Service by the fastest means possible, either by apron phone or dialing 1-111 on any phone.

2.2.6. Security is a significant aspect of USAP operations. All individuals must be security conscious at all times and report any security incident or suspicious activities to the 13 AEG Det 1 Supervisor or First Sergeant and/or local police or airfield security.

2.2.6.1. CIAL Aviation Security provides airport and ramp security at all times. USAF Security personnel may be temporarily assigned to patrol the Deep Freeze ramp while USAF aircraft are deployed to support Operation DEEP FREEZE.

2.2.7. Engine runs will be conducted IAW the Airside Operations Agreement. A copy of this is available from the NSF Prime Contractor Christchurch Terminal Operations Manager.

## **2.3. Flight Planning and Filing**

2.3.1. "ATC Course Rules" briefings will be provided in both Christchurch and McMurdo for USAP Flight Crews. Twin Otter, Basler and Helicopter crews will be briefed as soon as possible after arrival at McMurdo Station.

2.3.2. USAP aircraft shall be on an approved flight plan appropriate for intended operation, filed through Base Operations.

2.3.3. The local flying area for fixed-wing aircraft includes the entire continent of Antarctica.

2.3.4. Intercontinental flights between New Zealand and Antarctica will require USAP aircrew to file a DD Form 1801 (International Flight Plan) in Christchurch Base Operations to Christchurch Clearance Delivery. Flights utilizing the Macquarie route will require a FIR estimate for Melbourne and Auckland boundaries.

2.3.5. Flights within the Antarctic continent will file a DD Form 1801, International Flight Plan with McMurdo Center unless on standardized routing.

### **NOTE:**

Point of Safe Return (PSR) time will be included on all DD Form 1801's.

2.3.6. IFR flights will be cleared via filed flight plan routing, stereo route prescribed Departure Procedure (DP), and/or Standard Terminal Arrival Routing (STAR) to their destination.

2.3.7. Pilots flying VFR will notify ATC of their departure and individual flight legs for flight following. The VFR flight information must include:

- aircraft identification,
- type aircraft,
- departure point,

- destination,
- time enroute,
- endurance and
- souls on-board.

2.3.8. NOTAMS will be posted daily in Christchurch Base Operations and Mac Center by ATC. NOTAMS will include information such as runway and NAVAID status, version numbers with effective dates (DD Month YYYY to DD Month YYYY) of current approved approach plates, and other pertinent information.

2.3.9. In addition to NOTAMS, the USAP Airfield Manager will provide daily airfield status reports for McMurdo airfields.

2.3.10. Crew list (including MEPs) and passenger manifests may be filed separately with Raven Operations. The NSF Prime Contractor will maintain a file copy of all passenger manifests until the cessation of season flying operations.

2.3.11. Once ACL is determined, the Captain/Aircraft Commander/Mission Commander/Director of Operations will ensure final coordination of ACL and fuel load with Terminal Operations.

2.3.11.1. All operators make their own arrangements with the aviation fuel provider, including ordering it.

## **2.4. Operating Minimums.**

2.4.1. ASP's will operate IAW their established flying regulations (OPSPECS) and contract language.

2.4.2. Consideration will be given to weather trends, i.e., surface/horizon definitions, and winds. If, at any time prior to reaching PSR, the weather trend creates doubt as to the suitability of McMurdo airfield arrival conditions, then the Captain/Aircraft Commander will consider reversing course.

2.4.3. Each operator should also consider other operational issues such as: NAVAIDs, communications, airfield conditions as well as potential divert locations.

## **2.5. Antarctic Operating Environment**

### **2.5.1. Polar Grid System.**

2.5.1.1. The Polar Grid System (grid) will be used and/or referenced for all contract and DoD fixed-wing navigation true south of 60 degrees south latitude. Directional information given to or received from pilots and references to directions published in this manual will be based on grid direction unless otherwise stated.

#### **NOTE:**

USAP Helicopter operators use TRUE headings for all references to direction unless otherwise stated.

### **2.5.2. Antarctic Pressure Altitude.**

2.5.2.1. Due to nonstandard pressure altitude and extremely cold temperatures, aircraft will make appropriate altitude corrections per the FAA Aeronautical Information Manual and the DoD Flight Information Handbook or applicable ICAO regulations.

### **2.5.3. Altitude Reference.**

2.5.3.1. The lowest usable flight level over the Antarctica continent will be FL 200 (the floor of controlled airspace is FL 245). Transition altitude is 18,000' MSL and the transition level is FL 200. Refer to AIM 7-2-1 (USAF aircrew also refer to AFI 11-202v3) for more information and cold weather altitude correction tables.

#### **WARNING:**

When using an altimeter setting of 29.92 in areas of low pressure, actual altitude may be lower than indicated altitude. The lack of reported altimeter settings combined with extremely low pressures over the Antarctic continent might require an adjustment to the minimum usable altitudes in the FLIP Enroute supplement.

2.5.3.2. To ensure altitude separation between aircraft flying at 18,000 feet on a local altimeter setting and those aircraft flying at FL 200, the following procedure is evoked:

2.5.3.2.1. When climbing, pilots will set altimeters to QNE (29.92) upon reaching 18,000 feet MSL. When descending, pilots will set reported or forecast QNH passing through FL 200. When operating in uncontrolled airspace outside 100nm from a reported or forecast altimeter-setting, pilots will set QNE (29.92).

### **2.5.4. Surface/Horizon Definitions and White-Out Conditions.**

2.5.4.1. Surface definition is the ease with which features on a snow-covered surface can be distinguished, either from the air or by a surface observer. Horizon definition is the ease with which the boundary between the ground and the sky can be determined. It is a parameter most appropriate over ice or areas where there are no mountains or nunataks visible, which provide visual references on the horizon. Surface and horizon definitions are reported as good, fair, poor, or nil, although there are no internationally agreed-upon definitions for either of these categories.

2.5.4.2. A whiteout condition is an optical phenomenon that occurs in uniformly overcast sky conditions over a snow-covered surface. It is associated with diffuse (uniform), shadow less illumination that causes a complete lack of surface and horizon definitions.

2.5.4.2.1. A person's ability to perceive snow covered orographic features depends on the shadows that they cast. Such features become indistinguishable under whiteout conditions. Without any visual stimulation, it is common to incorrectly evaluate an incline. Judgments of the distance and orientation of objects in the field of view are severely handicapped. Such spatial disorientation is exacerbated while airborne. Whiteout conditions can occur while visibility (i.e. transparency of the air) remains good.

2.5.4.2.2. While total whiteout results from nil surface and horizon definitions, there are degrees of this effect. For example, partially degraded horizon and surface definitions can occur under a broken cloud layer, snow, or blowing snow. **Figure 2.1** describes the SOPP's terminology of surface and horizon definitions.

**Figure 2.1 Surface/ Horizon Definitions and Terminology**

Qualitative Term	Surface definition	Horizon definition
Good	Snow surface features such as sastrugi, drifts, and gullies are easily identified by shadow. The sun is usually unobscured. Surface features are clearly defined for as far as the eye can see.	The horizon is sharply defined by shadow or contrast. The horizon is distinct with an obvious difference between land (snow) and sky.
Fair	Snow features can be identified by contrast. No definite shadows exist. The sun is usually totally obscured. Surface features become indistinct at distances of more than a few kilometers.	The horizon may be identified, although the contrast between sky and snow is not sharply defined.
Poor	Snow surface features (e.g. skidoo tracks) cannot readily be identified except from close-up (within 50 meters). The sun is usually totally obscured.	The horizon is barely discernable: in other words, the sky can be discriminated from land but no distinct horizon is visible.
Nil	Snow features cannot be identified. No shadows or contrast exist. Dark colored objects appear to float in the sky. The sun is totally obscured, although the overcast sky may exhibit considerable glare. The glare appears equally bright from surface reflection and from all directions.	Total loss of horizon: the snow surface merges with the whiteness of the sky.

## 2.6. Available Cargo Load (ACL) Coordination

2.6.1. LC-130 Mission Commander / Aircraft Commander / Director of Operations will pass the required fuel load and ACL to NSF Prime Contractor Flight Operations not later than 1+45 hours prior to scheduled takeoff. C-17 crews will pass information as coordinated.

2.6.2. Approximately 2 hours prior to takeoff, the Air Cargo Yard supervisor should have the initial load plan completed. An aircrew loadmaster will go to the Air Cargo Yard to verify the cargo and load plan paperwork.

2.6.3. ACL may be adjusted at the Aircraft Commander's discretion. This decision should consider safety, mission objectives, and aircraft limitations. New ACLs must be passed onto NSF Prime Contractor Movement Control Center (MCC) as soon as practical.

## **2.7. Enroute, Arrival and Departure Procedures.**

### **2.7.1. Enroute Procedures.**

2.7.1.1. The Aircraft Commander (AC) will maintain a listening watch on an appropriate ATC frequency at all times.

2.7.1.2. As the aircraft approaches PSR, the Aircraft Commander will advise Mac Center and/or Auckland Center of their decision to proceed or turn around.

2.7.1.3. The Aircraft Commander will obtain ATC approval prior to executing a turn- around to ensure separation from other known IFR aircraft.

### **2.7.2. McMurdo Station Arrival Procedures.**

2.7.2.1. IFR. McMurdo ATC retains responsibility for all IFR aircraft. Aircraft will be instructed to contact Tower prior to entering Class E airspace.

2.7.2.2. VFR. Aircraft are normally instructed to contact tower no closer than 10 miles from the airport for landing instructions.

2.7.2.3. Aircraft operating in Class D airspace will be in radio contact with the tower and should remain at 1,000 feet AGL or higher (500 feet for helicopters) until commencing final descent.

### **2.7.3. McMurdo Station Departure Procedures.**

2.7.3.1. IFR aircraft will call for IFR clearance. Tower will relay IFR clearances and issue departure instructions to aircraft departing on an IFR flight plan.

2.7.3.2. VFR aircraft will be given appropriate VFR departure information.

### **CAUTION:**

Heavy aircraft, such as the C-17 should start their takeoff roll at the 9000 feet runway remaining marker to protect low visibility markers at the approach end from jet blast damage.

## **2.8. Uncontrolled Airfield Operations.**

2.8.1. For operations at uncontrolled McMurdo, South Pole or USAP field camp area airfields, fixed/rotary wing aircraft pilots will follow uncontrolled field procedures.

2.8.1.1. Flight plans will be filed with Mac Center and advisory service provided.

2.8.1.2. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to departure from an uncontrolled airfield, the pilot will notify Mac Center/Tower, South Pole Communications or applicable field camp of planned activity via landline or radio.

2.8.1.3. Mac Center/Tower will notify Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) (who notifies the USAP Airfield Manager) on FM Channel 2 of intended uncontrolled airfield operations on

McMurdo Airfields. SP communications shall notify ARFF of all intended aircraft operations on SP skiway or ramps.

2.8.1.4. Pilots will announce their intentions on the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) VHF 129.7 MHz for all flight operations on uncontrolled airfields operated by the USAP.

## **2.9. Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF 129.7).**

2.9.1. Traffic information broadcasts by aircraft are to be used within the traffic information coverage (VHF radio range) of all uncontrolled USAP airfields and camps. Traffic advisory reports transmitted on the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) are intended to provide information to other aircraft in the vicinity. When procedures are not otherwise specified, all aircraft shall comply with US Federal Aviation Regulations / Airman's Information Manual (FAR/AIM) section 4-1-9 *Traffic Advisory Practices at Airports Without Operating Control Towers*.

2.9.1.1. The CTAF may be a UNICOM or MULTICOM frequency identified in appropriate aeronautical publications.

2.9.1.2. CTAF frequencies are designated in the USAP Communications Plan.

2.9.1.3. The form of the broadcast should start and end with the airfield name, such as: (*Airfield*) Traffic this is (*call sign*) appropriate movement advisory information (i.e. starting engines, taxiing, departing, arriving, climbing or descending to altitude), (*Airfield*) Traffic.

2.9.1.4. Broadcasts are not normally acknowledged except when another aircraft or ground station is aware of the potential for close proximity or conflict with another aircraft or the need for mutual support, communications relay, or contingency back-up exists.

2.9.1.5. CTAF procedures will be used at all outlying USAP camps/stations, continent-wide. Pilots will use the CTAF frequency to broadcast pertinent UNICOM information at all times.

2.9.1.6. At uncontrolled airfields where ARFF services are provided, the ARFF commander will monitor the CTAF during normal (non-emergency) operations. The ARFF commander may be able to assist the aircraft with removal of runway obstructions (personnel, equipment, vehicles, wildlife, FOD, etc.) when reported and requested by the aircraft. If the ARFF commander is already aware of runway obstructions, they will communicate them to the aircraft via the CTAF

2.9.1.7. Mac Center will instruct arriving IFR aircraft to change to advisory frequency upon commencing descent into landing site; typically 100nm out.

2.9.1.8. All inbound traffic should monitor and communicate as appropriate on the designated CTAF from 100 miles out to landing.

2.9.1.9. Aircraft should maintain a listening watch on the primary HF frequency for further advisories from Mac Center or relay of ATC information.

2.9.1.10. Departing aircraft will monitor CTAF frequency while on the snow and will relay

UNICOM information as required.

2.9.1.11. Departure aircraft should monitor and communicate on the appropriate frequency from engine start-up, during taxi, and until 10 miles from the station or camp.

## **2.10. Over-flight Restrictions.**

2.10.1. Direct over-flight of McMurdo Station/Scott Base below 1500 ft AGL should be avoided. Over-flight within one nautical mile of the McMurdo Heliport is restricted to an altitude at or above 1500 feet AGL.

2.10.2. Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) were created to protect areas of special environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic, and wilderness value. Certain flight restrictions are associated with these areas. All airlift service providers should be familiar with the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (ACA).

2.10.3. As a general rule, aircraft will avoid disturbing concentrations of birds and animals. Flights shall operate no less than 2,000 feet AGL (mission permitting) over these concentrations.

2.10.4. Information regarding flight restrictions of ASPAs is available from the National Science Foundation Representative at McMurdo Station, or in the ACA. The ASPA Manual, depicting and describing all the ASPAs in/around the McMurdo station/Dry Valleys area, can be found at the [http://www.ats.aq/e/ep\\_protected.htm](http://www.ats.aq/e/ep_protected.htm).

2.10.5. Information on these areas may be included in the local flying area brief provided by Mac Center, if applicable.

2.10.6. Resolution 2 of the XXVII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting recommends that the “Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica” be used by those engaged in the operation of aircraft in Antarctica (see **Attachment 3**)

## **2.11. Weather Balloon Launches.**

2.11.1. McMurdo Weather regularly launches weather balloons between 2100Z and 0000Z and between 0900Z and 1200Z from a point ¼ mile grid south of McMurdo Heliport.

2.11.2. Mac Center and the tower will broadcast additional pertinent balloon launch information when required.

2.11.3. Notification of upper atmosphere balloon launches, including NASA’s Long Duration Balloons (LDB) and Crary Lab, will be by NOTAM.

2.11.3.1. LDB launches have priority over aircraft operations. The LDB Camp Supervisor shall coordinate 48 hours in advance with the USAP Airfield Manager of intent to launch.

2.11.3.2. LDB and Crary Lab balloon launches will be coordinated through the ROF in Charleston. Coordination process is as follows: Camp Supervisor shall notify USAP Airfield Manager, SOPP Site Manager, Mac Center, ROF Charleston, and 13 AEG/CC, providing all known details, to include launch date and time.

2.11.3.3. ROF Charleston shall initiate and disseminate NOTAMs, which are posted in Mac Center Flight Planning and CHC Base Operations.

## **2.12. Degraded HF Communication Procedures.**

2.12.1. In the event of loss of communications, a listening watch will be maintained on the primary HF frequency 9.032 kHz. Mac Center will also maintain a watch on HF 11.256 kHz.

2.12.2. On a secondary radio, proceed with HF radio checks on the secondary frequency 5.726 kHz and tertiary HF frequencies of 13.251 kHz, 11.256 kHz, or 6.708 kHz.

2.12.3. Iridium phones, SATCOM, and text messaging will be used as a back up to HF communications.

2.12.4. Consult the USAP Communications Plan for current seasonal frequency assignments. Aircraft operators should refer to current seasonal manuals for specific lost communications procedures.

## **2.13. Ground Support and Servicing.**

2.13.1. Fueling: Aviation fuel is provided for USAP aircraft through the NSF Prime Contractor. AN-8 fuel (JP-8 with anti-gelling additive) is normally the only aviation fuel available at Williams Field, Phoenix Airfield, field camps and South Pole Station.

2.13.1.1. NSF Prime Contractor Fuels personnel are required to be present during all refueling operations with the exception of the MCM Heliport.

2.13.2. The NSF Prime Contractor provides Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) for all DoD aircraft operating at the McMurdo airfields.

2.13.2.1. Transient aircrews should request AGE support services through Mac Center one hour prior to their arrival.

2.13.2.2. During LC-130 operations at Williams Field, Skier Maintenance will provide radio and telephone coordination of AGE assets. Transient aircrews should contact Skier Maintenance on VHF 123.45 MHz or UHF 251.25 MHz prior to arrival.

### **CAUTION:**

Do not use aircraft heaters shall on LC-130 or C-17 aircraft when winds exceed 25 knots.

**CAUTION:**

When heaters or other powered AGE equipment are operational and connected to aircraft, they shall be closely monitored at all times either by the user or AGE personnel. Heaters and other equipment shall not be left unattended when operational.

2.13.3. USAP contract aviation service providers (ASPs) will provide their own ground support, maintenance and spare parts. 139 EAS Maintenance personnel, within their capability, may provide transient alert support for aircraft other than LC-130.

**2.14. Operational Risk Management (ORM).**

2.14.1. The goal of ORM is to identify and eliminate unnecessary risks. ASP's are expected to utilize ORM practices in the conduct of flight operations, within the bounds of their applicable operation specifications or contracts. For 139 EAS aircrew, ORM worksheets are available in the MCM flight planning area and should be turned in to the 139 EAS Supervisor of Flying (SOF) prior to flight.

**2.15. Aviation Ground Safety.**

2.15.1. Support personnel must be aware of the hazards involved in working and moving around aircraft, including propeller and jet engine danger zones.

2.15.2. Support personnel are instructed not to approach an aircraft until directed to do so by the aircrew.

2.15.3. Vehicles not directly involved in loading, maintenance or servicing of aircraft will avoid approaching the aircraft and will remain outside the "circle of safety."

2.15.3.1. A "circle of safety" is defined as a circular area with a 25-foot radius, from wingtip to wingtip and nose to tail, around parked aircraft. If an engine is running or propellers are turning, this area is increased to 50 feet.

2.15.4. The McMurdo USAP Airfield Manager or designated representative shall provide airfield driver safety training to all personnel operating a vehicle or equipment on USAP airfields including South Pole Station and all field camps.

**2.16. Explosive and Hazardous Cargo Areas Procedures.**

2.16.1. All hazardous cargo will be handled and transported IAW appropriate Defense Transportation Regulations listed in DTR 4500.9-R.

2.16.2. The USAP Airfield Manager and the Terminal Manager will designate the Hazardous Cargo storage area seasonally.

2.16.3. The USAP Airfield Manager, in coordination with the Explosives Manager and flight operations personnel, will designate the Explosive Cargo storage area seasonally.

2.16.4. Areas will be designated at the airfields for loading/unloading explosive material and for loading/unloading hazardous cargo.

2.16.5. All hazardous and explosive cargo will be unloaded or loaded with the aircraft engines shutdown in the designated location. Exception: C-17 aircraft may conduct engine running on/offloads (ERO) with prior coordination.

2.16.6. USAP passengers are considered 'Duty Passengers', so applicable regulatory guidance will be in effect when transporting hazardous cargo on USAP aircraft with passengers.

2.16.7. Upon notification of hazardous cargo movement, the NSF's Prime Contractor Fixed Wing Coordinator will notify the following positions/stations no later than 24 hours prior to scheduled movement:

- NSF Representative/Station Manager
- 13 AEG Commander
- USAP Airfield Manager
- McMurdo Station Explosives Manager
- McMurdo Station ARFF
- McMurdo Station ATC

2.16.7.7. McMurdo Station Medical

## Chapter 3

### ROTARY WING OPERATIONS

#### NOTE:

Rotary wing operations are conducted by NSF's Helicopter contractor and are bound operationally by their approved OPSPEC / GOM, locally approved procedures and contractual terms.

#### 3.1. Local Flying Area.

3.1.1. The local flying area for rotary aircraft is a 60 NM radius of McMurdo Station and Marble point. USAP Flight operations conducted beyond the local area, without specific approval of the helicopter vendor site manager, require two aircraft separated by a distance of not greater than 100 NM. The Area Manager may approve single aircraft operations up to a maximum distance of 200 NM from McMurdo, with additional restrictions.

3.1.2. If installed and operational, helicopters and VFR aircraft will turn on transponders to provide visibility to TCAS equipped aircraft. McMurdo is a non-radar environment.

3.1.3. Helicopters use TRUE headings for information given to or received from pilots, and all references to direction are in TRUE unless otherwise stated.

3.1.4. Contractually, helicopters operate under VMC only. All contractor pilots are IFR certified and trained; however, may not be current.

3.1.5. Do not operate overwater beyond power-off glide distances.

#### 3.2. Local Operating Procedures.

3.2.1. All departures and arrivals are at pilot discretion with due consideration of safety.

3.2.2. When Winter Quarters Bay and the sea around Observation Hill are covered by fast ice, normal procedures will apply (see **Figure 3.2** *Typical Helicopter Arrival and Departure Routing*). This will consist of departing and arriving over the sea ice west of the Heliport area.

3.2.3. Arrival.

3.2.3.1. Helicopters will make appropriate outbound/inbound radio calls.

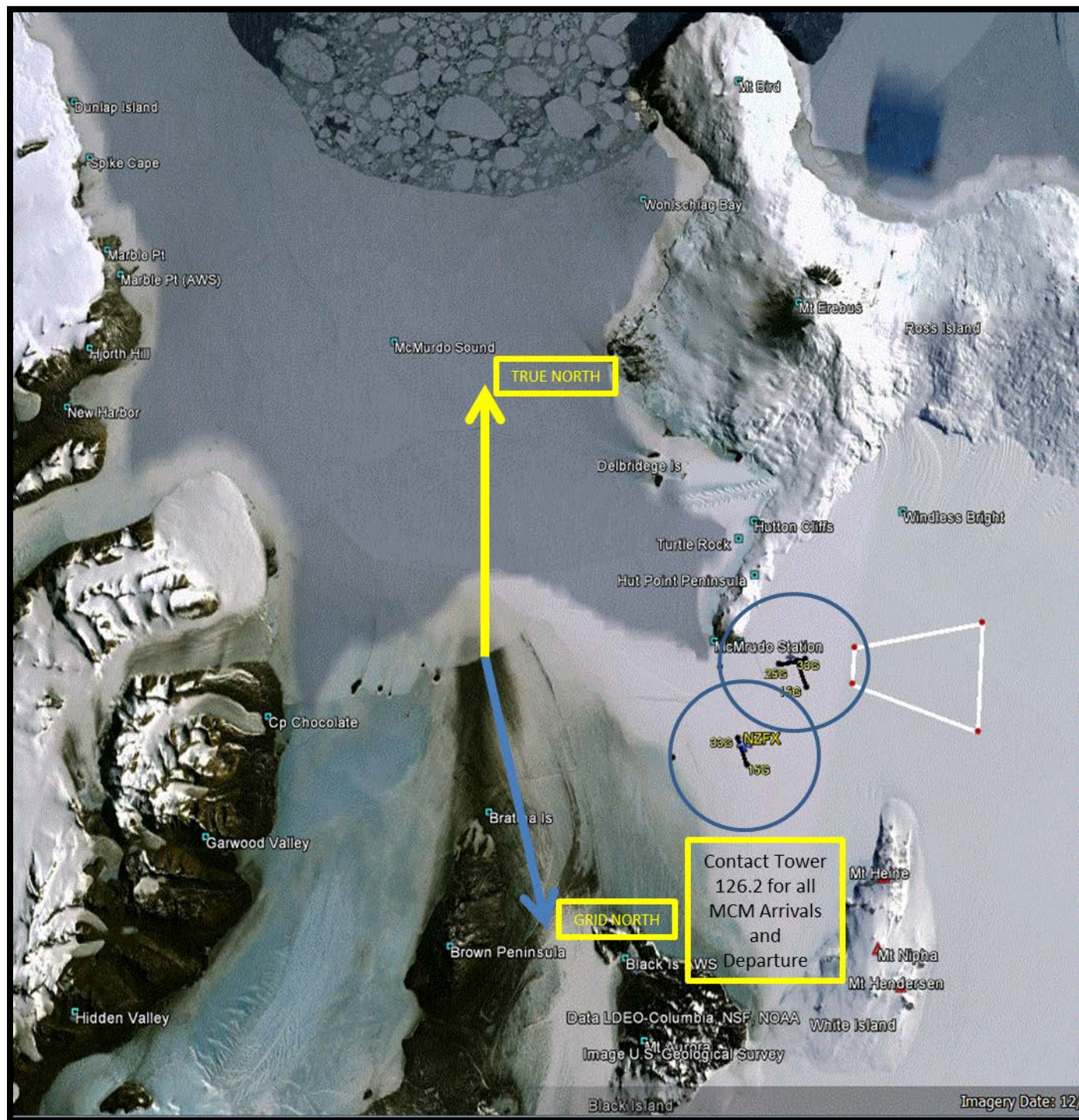
3.2.3.2. Recommended altitude is 500 feet or below within 10 NM of McMurdo Station. Be aware other helicopters may be operating around McMurdo Station at varying altitudes.

3.2.3.3. Make approaches to Heliport from over the sea ice to assigned landing spot whenever possible.

3.2.3.4. Avoid over-flying other aircraft, buildings, or people. The prevailing wind at the Heliport is from the true southeast, so over-ice departures are often downwind.

3.2.3.5. With a strong westerly wind, an approach paralleling the shoreline from the ice wharf or around Observation Hill is recommended.

**Figure 3.1. McMurdo Helicopter Operations Area Map.**



3.2.3.6. Ice-Out or Wind-Driven Alternate (“Gap”) procedures are only to be used under established conditions as discussed in 3.3.2.

3.2.3.7. When twenty (20) minutes out from McMurdo, advise Helo Hanger on Helo Ops frequency that you are inbound and if you will need fuel, transportation, or special assistance. Advise Operations if carrying a sling load.

3.2.3.8. If unable to use Helo Ops, ask Mac Center to relay this information to the Helicopter Hangar.

3.2.3.9. At 10 NM out, contact Mac Center on 118.5 MHz and report intentions.

3.2.3.10. If Williams Field Tower is open, request clearance into Class D airspace if arrival path is through Class D airspace. Helicopters need not contact Williams Field tower for Class D airspace transitions when arriving McMurdo helipad when they will remain within ¼ mile True South of Cape Armitage and remain True North of a True 030° bearing clockwise through a True 060° bearing from Cape Armitage.

**NOTE:**

Runway direction is given in Grid (Grid North = True North + 167 degrees)

3.2.4. Departure.

3.2.4.1. Prior to lift-off, contact Mac Center on 118.5 MHz and pass flight plan and intended departure route.

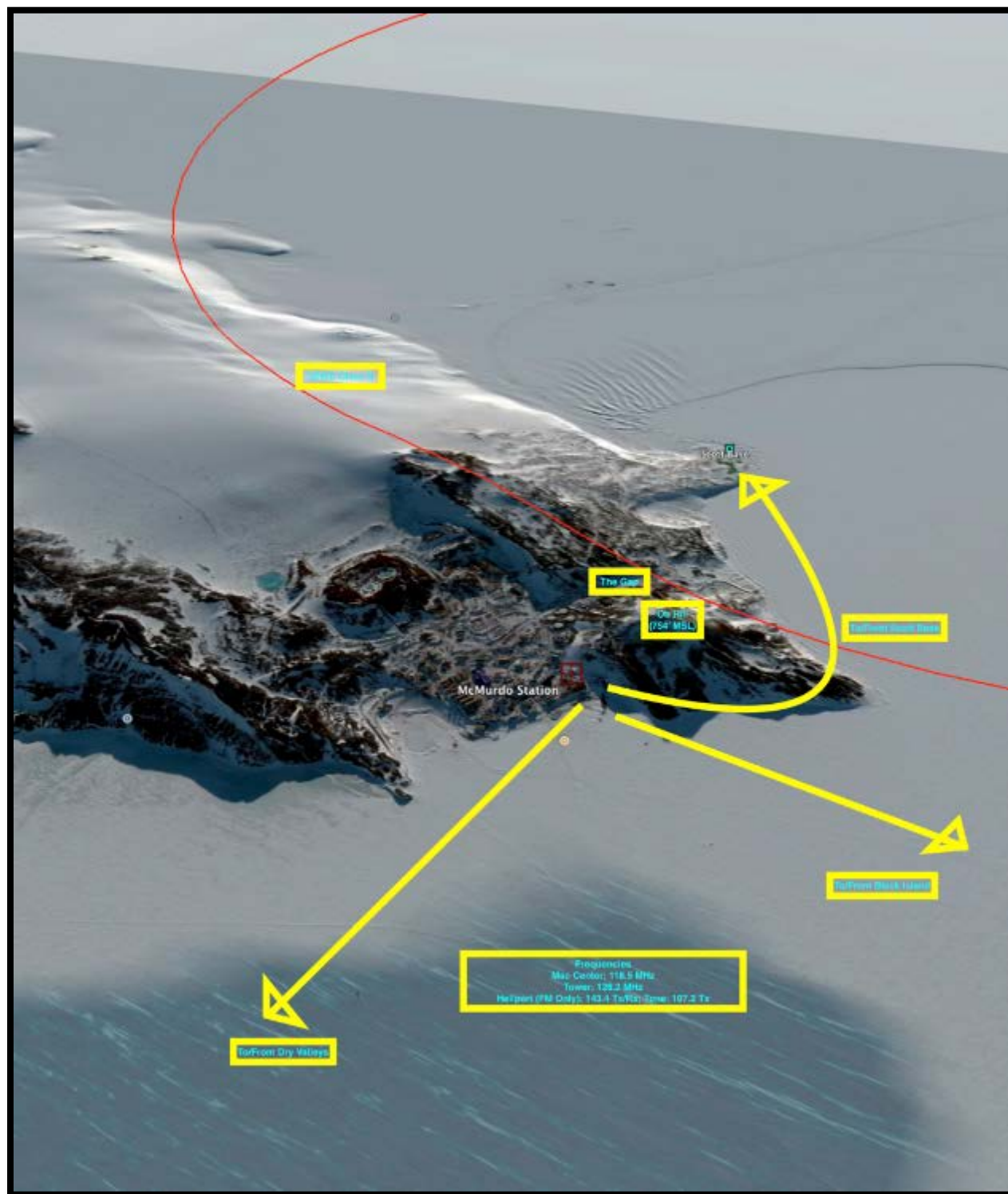
3.2.4.2. Mac Center will provide information on conflicting traffic and the operational control tower.

3.2.4.3. If possible, broadcast intentions on Helo Ops frequency prior to liftoff.

3.2.4.4. Contact Williams Field Tower on 126.2 MHz as soon as possible after takeoff if departure path is through Class D airspace. Helicopters need not contact Williams Field tower for Class D airspace transitions when departing McMurdo helipad when they will remain within ¼ mile True South of Cape Armitage and remain True North of a True 030° bearing clockwise through a True 060° bearing from Cape Armitage.

3.2.4.5. Remain 500’ AGL or below while in Class D airspace and monitor 126.2 MHz until clear. Report clear to Williams Field Tower if doing a normal transition and change to 118.5 MHz beyond 10 NM radius of McMurdo Station.

Figure 3.2. Typical Helicopter Arrival and Departure Routing.



### 3.3. Heliport Traffic Patterns.

#### 3.3.1. Standard Pattern.

3.3.1.1. The prevailing wind at McMurdo Station is from true southeast. This wind passing through the “gap” is normally stronger and has more gusts than other locations in the area.

3.3.1.2. Due to the winds in the “gap,” helicopters should approach the heliport from the true northeast, over McMurdo Sound, for a straight-in approach. Departures should also be made to the true northeast and may require an immediate turn downwind. Pilots should avoid over-flying power lines, buildings, and transmission towers.

3.3.1.3. During an approach under average conditions with winds of 10 to 20 knots, updrafts can be expected approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile on final approach followed by a down draft at approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$ -mile.

#### **WARNING:**

Pilots need to be aware of these conditions.

#### 3.3.2. Ice-Out or Wind-Driven Alternate (Gap) Pattern Procedures.

3.3.2.1. If there is open water in Winter Quarters Bay and/or the sea area around Observation Hill, all helicopters should use a shoreline approach and departure or the “gap” procedures (see **Figure 3.3. McMurdo Heliport Gap Departure and Arrival Routes**). Note: USAP helicopters are not float equipped.

3.3.2.2. When water and/or prevailing winds preclude approaches and departures true northeast of Observation Hill, the following procedures are recommended:

##### 3.3.2.3. Departure.

3.3.2.3.1. After making the appropriate radio calls, takeoff and departure should be accomplished by flying directly up slope toward the “gap” to the right of the pipes and power lines.

3.3.2.3.2. Avoid over-flying the fuel tanks located in the “gap” and avoid the antenna farm on top of the ridge on the east side of the “gap”. Avoid over-flying aircraft, buildings, or people.

3.3.2.3.3. Be prepared for turbulence and wind shear when flying this route.

3.3.2.3.4. Contact Mac Center (Helo Ops for local operators) prior to departure while stating intention to make a “gap” departure. Aircraft would proceed along the grid eastside of the main station, then through the pass, climbing to a minimum altitude of 500 feet MSL and remaining to the right side of the pass. Contact Tower when advised by Mac Center.

##### 3.3.2.4. Arrival.

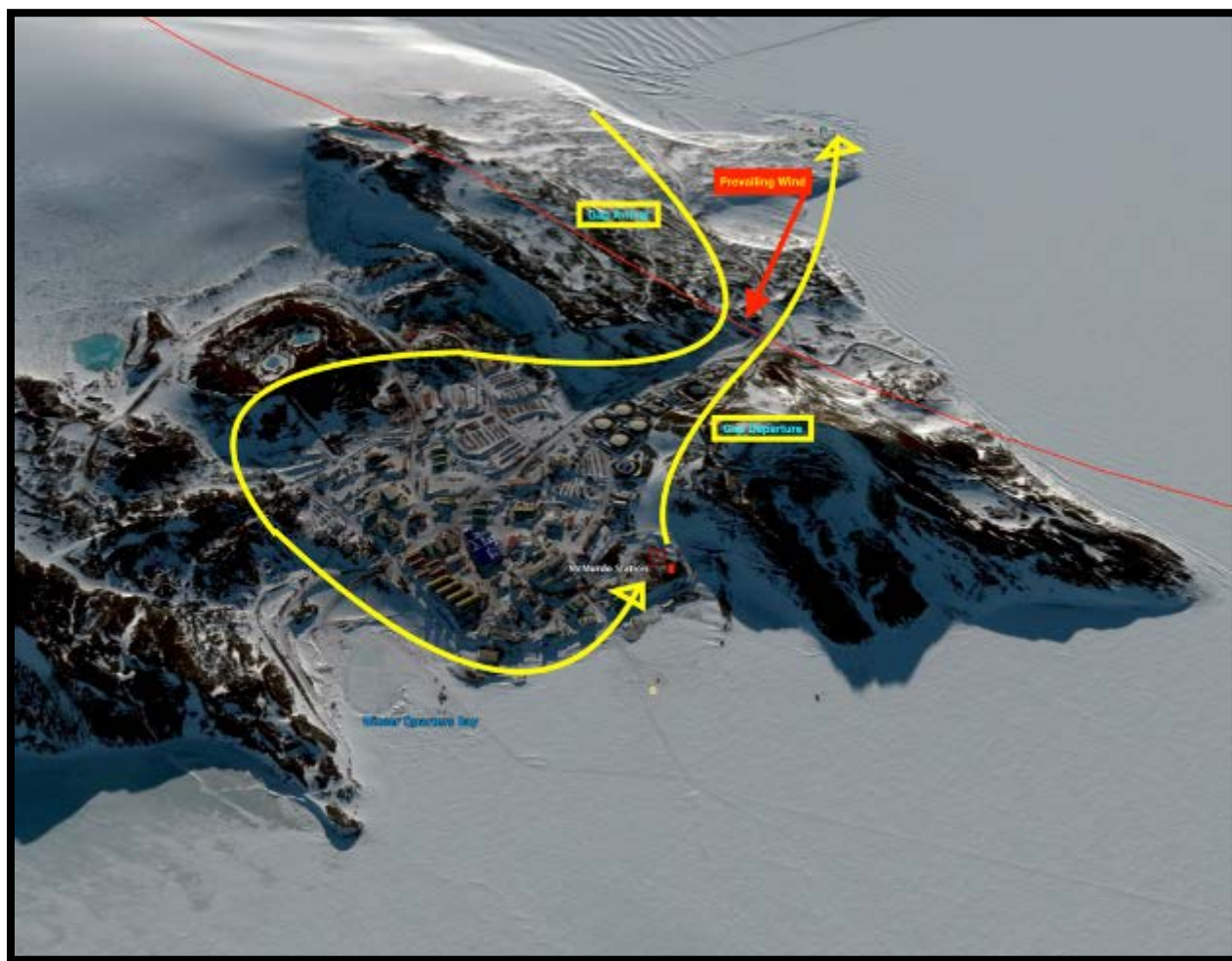
3.3.2.4.1. After making the appropriate radio calls and advising Mac Center that you will be

making a “gap” arrival, proceed to the “gap”.

3.3.2.4.2. Entry (see **Figure 3.3. McMurdo Heliport Gap Departure and Arrival Routes**) will be along the east or right side of the “gap”. The arrival path will be a slow left circle around the outside of McMurdo Station proper over-flying the roads, across the inland end of Winter Quarters Bay and then along the shoreline to the Heliport.

3.3.2.4.3. Avoid over-flying buildings, fuel tanks, people, or aircraft.

**Figure 3.3. McMurdo Heliport Gap Departure and Arrival Routes.**



#### 3.3.2.5. Approach Routing.

3.3.2.5.1. If required, contact tower on frequency 126.2 MHz prior to entry into Class D airspace. Approach McMurdo Station from the Northeast through the pass between Observation Hill and Crater Hill, at a minimum altitude of 500 feet MSL, remaining to the right side of the pass.

3.3.2.5.2. The aircraft should continue southwest across the station area and make a descending left turn to the heliport, remaining over the outskirts of the main station as much as possible. Pilots should anticipate turbulence in the pass and throughout the approach.

### 3.4. Helicopter Use at McMurdo Airfields.

3.4.1. McMurdo airfields operate as prior-permission-required (PPR) through the USAP Airfield Manager to ensure safe operations on the airfields.

3.4.2. Landing sites and ramp operations/marshalling should be coordinated in advance with the USAP Airfield Manager who will provide the most up-to-date guidance based on the airfield and time of year.

### 3.5. Tourist Ship Helicopter Operations.

3.5.1. Tourist Ship helicopters will establish communications with Mac Center prior to commencing “ship to shore” flight operations in the McMurdo Station vicinity.

### 3.6. Communications.

3.6.1. Communications will be made with McMurdo Center (Mac Center) prior to departure or arrival.

3.6.2. All communications with Mac Center within 10 NM of McMurdo Station should be on the Common frequency, 118.5 MHz.

3.6.3. Flight Following (135.5 MHz (Transmit) and 143.975 MHz (Receive)) and Helo Ops (143.4 MHz) on VHF-FM should also be monitored, if possible, when operating into or out of McMurdo Heliport.

3.6.4. Beyond 10 NM radius from McMurdo Station:

3.6.4.1. Use Flight-following frequencies 118.5 MHz, or HF 4.718 kHz to communicate with Mac Center and monitor Area Common frequency 129.7 MHz and/or Helo Ops frequency if possible.

### USAP Recommended VHF-FM Helicopter Ops Radio Setup:

CH	TX	RX	TONE		NAME
1	143.4	143.4	107.2 tx		Helo Ops (CH 11 on Kiwi radios)
2	139.1	139.1	79.7 tx		Pad
3	138.5	143.975	186.2 tx	173.8 rx	Flight Following Cones
4	138.5	143.975	156.7 tx	173.8 rx	Flight Following Coates
5	138.5	143.975	173.8 tx	173.8 rx	Flight Following Newell
6	138.5	143.975	192.8 tx	173.8 rx	Flight Following Minna Bluff/Mt Aztec
7	139.5	139.5	100.0 tx		Science
8	139.3	143.8	131.8 tx		NZ Crater Hill (CH 4 on Kiwi radios)
9	143.1	140.0 -	NZ Mt Newell Rptr/AntNZ		Field Party Freq (CH 5 on AntNZ radios)
10	156.8	156.8 -			Marine 16

### USAP Recommended VHF-FM Helicopter Ops Radio Setup (Cont.):

CH	TX	RX	TONE		NAME
11	138.6	143.225	85.4 tx		Taylor Valley Field Party Rptr
12	138.6	143.225	123.0 tx		Mt Terror/Bird Field Party Rptr
13	138.6	143.225	110.9 tx		Wright Valley/Newell Field Party Rptr
14	138.6	143.225	74.4 tx		Mt Aurora Field Party Rptr
15	138.6	143.225	141.3 tx		Mt Brooke/Kimball Pt Field Party Rptr
GD 1	143.4	143.4	107.2 tx		Helo Ops (CH 11 on Kiwi radios)
GD 2	138.5	143.975	186.2 tx	173.8 rx	Flight Following Cones Z

### 3.7. Upper Heliport Procedures.

3.7.1. Departure (see **Figure 3.4. Upper Heliport Procedures**).

3.7.1.1. Make appropriate radio calls prior to takeoff.

3.7.1.2. Fly one of the following takeoff paths:

3.7.1.2.1. Around the outside boundary of the lower heliport and outside of the lower buildings to over the sea ice or shoreline; through the “gap”.

3.7.1.2.2. Along the road on the North side of the Helo Hanger to over the sea ice or shoreline.

3.7.1.3 .Avoid over-flying the Helo Hanger, buildings, aircraft, or people.

#### **WARNING:**

Be aware that the dust and rocks kicked up by the departing aircraft can cause injury to personnel and damage to the aircraft on the lower Heliport.

3.7.2. Arrival.

3.7.2.1. Approach path to the upper heliport should be made along the road north of the Helo Hanger or around the outside boundary of the lower heliport.

#### **NOTE:**

If no helicopter is parked on A-1 pad (closest to the Helo Hanger) and there are no personnel on the lower heliport, an approach straight in from the sea ice/shoreline may be made close along the south side of the hangar.

3.7.2.2. A direct approach from a “gap” arrival is not recommended due to the steepness of the slope onto the heliport and the rapid rates of descent that could develop.

3.7.2.3. Avoid over-flying any buildings, aircraft, or people.

Figure 3.4. Upper Heliport Procedures.



### **3.8. Heliport Pad Locations.**

- 3.8.1. There are eight landing pads on the lower heliport and two on the upper heliport (see **Figure 3.4. Upper Heliport Procedures**).
- 3.8.2. The upper helipads (designated Upper Heliport Pads D1 & E1) are not typically used.
- 3.8.3. The lower heliport consists of three rows, Alpha (4 pads), Bravo (3 pads).
- 3.8.4. Alpha 1 (A-1) is the maintenance pad and should be kept clear except for maintenance, movement into or out of the Helo Hanger, or hot loading or unloading of cargo/passengers.
- 3.8.5. Fuel will be available at all lower helipads except A-1.

### **3.9. Vehicle Traffic.**

- 3.9.1. Do not over-fly vehicles at very low altitude or when making an approach or takeoff. Be aware of vehicle traffic around or on the Heliport.
- 3.9.2. Vehicles entering either the upper or lower heliport shall contact the Helo Hanger on the Helo Ops Frequency (VHF-FM) prior to driving onto or across the heliport.

### **3.10. Passengers.**

- 3.10.1. All passengers must have attended the Field Safety Training Program (FSTP) Helicopter Training or refresher course during the current season before boarding a USAP helicopter. NSF Representative/Station Manager has the ability to waive this requirement for specific Distinguished Visitors or others approved in writing.
- 3.10.2. Passengers shall be escorted to and from the helicopter by a helitech or pilot.

#### **WARNING:**

When blades are turning, never approach the helicopter from the rear.

- 3.10.3. All passengers should be briefed immediately before going out to the helicopter.
- 3.10.4. The pilot shall ensure that a safety briefing is given to all passengers prior to takeoff in accordance with the governing procedures of the pilot's respective organization and the NSF's contract language.
- 3.10.5. Passengers may disembark from the helicopter prior to shutdown when operationally essential and only if escorted by qualified personnel, normally a helitech or pilot.
- 3.10.6. Escorts should ensure they have the pilot's permission to approach or depart an aircraft that is running and that all ground personnel and passengers stay well clear of the tail rotor.

### 3.11. Fueling Operations.

- 3.11.1. Initial helicopter fueling time is after 0700 each morning, following the NSF Prime Contractor fuels personnel daily system inspection conducted no later than 6:45 am daily.
- 3.11.2. Non-local transiting helicopters requiring refueling should call the Helo Hanger or have Mac Center relay that they will require fuel at least 15 minutes prior to arrival.
- 3.11.3. Hot refueling (fueling with the helicopter running) is **not authorized**.
- 3.11.4. Only trained personnel will operate the fueling system.

### 3.12. External Load Procedures.

#### **WARNING:**

External (sling) load operations are inherently risky. Aircraft carrying sling loads have the “right of way” due to reduced maneuverability. All other aircraft will ‘give way’.

#### 3.12.1. Pick Up.

- 3.12.1.1. External loads shall be picked up from the area along the west side of the Lower Heliport. Generally, outgoing loads will be set up closest to the hangar.
- 3.12.1.2. Aircraft picking up an external load shall advise the Helo Hangar on Helo Ops frequency.
- 3.12.1.3. When possible, pilot[s] will maintain radio communications with ground personnel.
- 3.12.1.4. When departing, do not overfly aircraft or people and avoid over-flying buildings, vehicles, or fuel tanks.
- 3.12.1.5. Ensure adequate clearance from all ground obstructions.

#### 3.12.2. Drop Off.

- 3.12.2.1. It is recommended, when making the call to Mac Center (for non-local operators) or Helo Ops (local USAF/AntNZ) inbound; advise them of an external load. This is to make other aircraft operating in the vicinity aware that the helicopter has an external load and is less maneuverable.
- 3.12.2.2. Use 118.5 MHz to contact Mac Center inbound.
- 3.12.2.3. If possible, advise the Mac Center 20 minutes out that the helicopter is inbound with an external load. All external loads will be put in on the west side of the Lower Heliport.
- 3.12.2.4. Use the first 15 feet of the helipad along the west edge.
- 3.12.2.5. Generally, all incoming loads should be placed progressively further away from the Helo Hanger (see **Figure 3.4. Upper Heliport Procedures**).
- 3.12.2.6. When putting in an external load, do not over-fly aircraft or people and avoid over-

flying buildings, vehicles, other loads, or fuel tanks.

3.12.2.7. Drop off external loads along the west edge of the Heliport, away from the Helo Hanger (see **Figure 3.3. McMurdo Heliport Gap Departure and Arrival Routes**). After releasing the external load, proceed to the assigned parking spot or maintenance pad (A-1) if maintenance is scheduled.

3.12.2.8. Be aware that the Lower Heliport is approximately 40 feet above sea level.

3.12.2.9. If ground advisories or ground handling personnel are desired, please advise the Helo Hanger either on Helo Ops frequency or through Mac Center.

### **3.13. Hazardous Cargo.**

3.13.1. For local operators, all operations shall be conducted IAW the current TL-MAN-0011 (Intra-Continental Shipment of Hazardous Materials via Airlift Manual).

3.13.2. For non-local operators, contact Mac Center and advise them on initial flight plan call when departing and returning to McMurdo Station of any Hazardous Cargo on-board.

### **3.14. Maintenance Parking.**

3.14.1. Aircraft scheduled for maintenance may be parked in front of the Helo Hanger on A-1 pad at Maintenance's request.

3.14.2. The aircraft should be parked with the tail facing the hanger.

3.14.3. Inbound aircraft should advise the Helo Hanger prior to arrival that they would be parking on A-1 maintenance pad 1, generally when the '20 minutes out' report is made.

### **3.15. Flight Following.**

3.15.1 Helicopters shall report "operations normal" every 30 minutes to Mac Center.

### **3.16. Over-flight Restrictions.**

3.16.1. Fixed-Wing aircraft over-flying McMurdo Station or Scott Base will maintain an altitude at or above 1500 feet AGL. Over-flight within one nautical mile of the McMurdo Heliport is restricted to an altitude at or above 1500 feet AGL.

3.16.2. ASPAs were created to protect areas of special environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic, and wilderness value. Certain flight restrictions are associated with these areas. All airlift service providers should be familiar with the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978.

3.16.3. As a general rule, aircraft will avoid disturbing concentrations of birds and animals. Helicopter flights shall not approach within ¼ mile lateral and no lower than 1000 feet AGL of these concentrations.

3.16.4. Information regarding flight restrictions of ASPAs is available from the NSF Representative/Station Manager at McMurdo Station or in Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (ACA).

## Chapter 4

### UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (UAS) OPERATIONS

#### NOTE:

UAS operations are NOT permitted without prior approval via the USAP UAS Working Group (UAS-WG).

#### 4.1. General.

4.1.1. Approved groups operating small UAS (sUAS) (less than 55 pounds) shall conduct operations in accordance with [14 CFR Part 107](#). Pilots are required to list sUAS certification (FAA or equivalent) and attach flight logs disclosing 10 hours of operation (minimum) on proposed UAS aircraft in the last 30-90 day period. Any authorized deviations will be specified in the approval process by the UAS-WG.

4.1.2. Operations of vehicles outside this category will have a specific authorization containing procedures, constraints that will be published separately.

#### 4.2. Responsibilities.

4.2.1. UAS groups shall:

4.2.1.1. Utilize the USAP UAS CONOPs Template (see **Attachment 8**) to provide a full description of planned UAS activities.

4.2.1.2. At McMurdo or South Pole, schedule mission in-brief with SOPP ATM upon arrival. Outside McMurdo, schedule an in-brief with Ship or Palmer Station Authorities (SA).

4.2.1.3. Provide proposed flight schedule and areas to be flown to the ship or SA. At McMurdo and South Pole, SOPP ATM and the Fixed Wing Coordinator will act as your gateway. SOPP ATC will de-conflict UAS activity with manned fixed and rotary wing flights to the maximum extent possible via coordination and the development of project specific special use airspace.

4.2.1.4. Coordinate with ship or SA no later than 24 hours prior to any UAS mission. For McMurdo and South Pole, coordinate directly with the Fixed Wing Coordinator.

4.2.1.5. Provide a qualified pilot to communicate with SOPP ATC/SA.

4.2.1.6. Maintain constant two-way radio communications with SOPP ATC/SA during all missions.

4.2.1.7. Coordinate with SOPP ATM/SA for special use airspace and special use airspace NOTAMs. If necessary, SA will coordinate with SOPP ATC.

4.2.1.8. Establish and publish lost communication and lost data link procedures.

4.2.1.9. Prior to departing theater, schedule a mission outbrief with station authorities (or SOPP ATC) to capture lessons learned and report any injuries.

4.2.2. (McMurdo/South Pole only) The Fixed Wing Coordinator shall:

4.2.2.1. Add the scheduled UAS mission(s) to the daily flying schedule.

4.2.2.2. Identify any potential conflicts on the schedule and notify SOPP ATM

4.2.3. SOPP ATM/Ship/SA shall:

4.2.3.1. Coordinate the UAS Group in-brief to include a review of planned CONOPS, discuss local course rules, issue radios to group lead PIC/Remote Pilot.

4.2.3.2. Develop special use airspace as required by the UAS groups, ATC, and the USAP flying community, drafting an appropriate NOTAM for publishing.

4.2.3.3. Provide traffic advisories as required to UAS groups via direct communications and broadcast advisories on appropriate frequencies.

4.2.3.4. Provide broadcast notifications to the appropriate email distribution list of key events on a daily event basis.

4.2.3.5. Provide UAS groups daily met briefs.

4.2.3.6. Ensure that UAS aircraft operating within the local area, are either on deck or established within the NOTAM'd special use airspace, prior to a fixed wing arrival reaching 100NM from the airport or departing fixed wing aircraft starting takeoff roll.

4.2.3.7. Advise all fixed and rotary wing aircraft of the position and intentions of all UASs operating within the local area (via direct communications or broadcast).

4.2.4. UAS PIC/Remote Pilot shall:

4.2.4.1. Prior to engine start:

4.2.4.1.1 Establish communication via best means available with appropriate ATC for location (Mac Center, Tower, etc)

4.2.4.2. Prior to taxi/takeoff:

4.2.4.2.1. Verify positive AFF with Mac Center (if installed)

4.2.4.2.2. Verify airspace status, traffic, with Mac Center, include planned duration, estimate land time, planned area to operate.

4.2.4.2.3. VHF CTAF / UNICOM Calls commence for all events within 10 nm of an existing airfield and continue throughout flight operations.

4.2.4.3. Off-deck call to Mac Center, "Ops Normal"

4.2.4.4. On-deck call to Mac Center, estimate time of next takeoff or secure for the day.

4.2.4.5. Notify ATC immediately of any lost link, fly away or other emergency situation.

### **4.3. Operational Limits for UAS.**

4.3.1. Unless otherwise specified within each UAS groups approval the following limits apply:

4.3.1.1. All flight operations are to be conducted under daylight (to include civil twilight if equipped with anti-collision lighting) and visual meteorological conditions (VMC), following Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and cloud clearances for the appropriate ICAO airspace that operations are being conducted in.

4.3.1.2. Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) operations only (unaided visual, binoculars are not approved means to extend the operating range). “Daisy chained” qualified observers in direct communication with the PIC/Remote Pilot may be utilized to extend the operating area.

4.3.1.3. All flights conducted at or below 400’ AGL

**ATTACHMENT 1: GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

AFI 11-202 Vol 3	<i>General Flight Rules</i>
AFI 11-218	<i>Aircraft Operation and Movement on the Ground</i>
AFI 11-230	<i>Instrument Procedures</i>
AFI 11-2C-130 Vol 1	<i>C-130 Aircrew Training</i>
AFI 11-2C-130 Vol 3	<i>C-130 Operations Procedures</i>
AFI 11-2C-17 Vol 1	<i>C-17 Aircrew Training</i>
AFI 11-2C-17 Vol 3	<i>C-17 Operations Procedures</i>
AFI 13-217	<i>Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations</i>
AFI 91-204	<i>Safety Investigations and Reports</i>
AFIM	<i>Antarctic Flight Information Manual</i>
AFMAN 11-226	<i>FAAO 8260.3 Terminal Instrument Procedures</i>
AFMAN 32-1076	<i>Design Standards for Visual Air Navigation Facilities</i>
AMC 24-101 Vol 15	<i>Transportation, Military Airlift Passenger Service</i>
FAAO 7110.65	<i>Air Traffic Control</i>
FAAO 7210.3	<i>Facility Operation and Administration</i>
FAAO 8020.11	<i>Aircraft Accident and Incident Notification, Investigation and Reporting</i>
FAR/AIM	<i>US Federal Aviation Regulations / Airman's Information Manual</i>
FC 3-260-06F	<i>Design, Construction, Maintenance and Evaluation of Snow and Ice Airfields in Antarctica</i>
FLIP	<i>DoD Flight Information Publication</i>
ICAO DOC 7030/4	<i>Regional Supplementary Procedures</i>
Public Law 104-227	<i>Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996</i>
TERPS MOU	<i>Terminal Instrument Procedures Memorandum of Understanding</i>
TL-MAN-0011	<i>Intra-Continental Shipment of Hazardous Materials via Airlift Manual</i>
T.O. 00-25-172	<i>Ground servicing of Aircraft and Static Grounding/Bonding</i>

## **ATTACHMENT 2: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AGL	Above Ground Level
AMC	Air Mobility Command
ANG	Air National Guard
ANTNZ	Antarctic New Zealand Program
ARA	Airborne Radar Approach
ARFF	Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
ASMA	Antarctic Specially Managed Area
ASPA	Antarctic Specially Protected Area
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
ATM	Air Traffic Manager
CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection
COMNAP	Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs
CTAF	Common Traffic Advisory Frequency
DP	Departure Procedures
ETP	Equal Time Point
FAAO	Federal Aviation Administration Order
FIR	Flight Information Region
FMC	Full Mission Capable
HF	High Frequency
IAP	International Airport or Instrument Approach Procedure
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules
IMC	Instrument Meteorological Condition
KIAS	Knots Indicated Airspeed
LDB	Long Duration Balloon
Mainbody	Main Deployment Phase for Operation DEEP FREEZE
Mac Center	McMurdo Air Traffic Control Center
MC	Mission Commander
MDA	Minimum Descent Altitude
MEA	Minimum Enroute Altitude
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPH	Miles Per Hour
MZS	Mario Zucchelli Station
NDB	Non-directional beacon
NM	Nautical Mile
NOTAM	Notice to Airmen
NSF	National Science Foundation
OAS	Office of Aviation Services (of the Dept. of Interior)
ODF	Operation DEEP FREEZE
OPORD	Operations Order
ORM	Operation Risk Management
PHI	Petroleum Helicopter Inc.
PSR	Point of Safe Return
ROF	Remote Operations Facility at SPAWAR, Charleston SC
RSC	Runway Surface Condition
SAR	Search and Rescue
SATCOM	Satellite Communication
SCAR	Scientific Community of Antarctic Research
SITREP	Situation Report
SOAR	Support Office for Aerogeophysical Research
SOE	Sequence of Events
SOPP	SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs
SPAWARSYSCEN	Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center
SPECI	Aviation Selected Special Weather Report
TERP	Terminal Instrument Procedures
USAP	United States Antarctic Program
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
VMC	Visual Meteorological Condition

### **ATTACHMENT 3: GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING AIRCRAFT NEAR CONCENTRATIONS OF BIRDS IN ANTARCTICA**

#### **A.3.1. Working Paper on Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica**

A.3.1.1. Fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter operations are now integral to most national Antarctic research programs, as well as being used by a small number of commercial tourist and air transport companies. The potential for harmful disturbance to concentrations of birds makes it important to provide pilots with guidelines that would prevent or minimize damaging impacts during over flights. Unfortunately, there is a lack of definitive scientific data on which to base firm guidelines for pilots. Moreover, most of the available research relates to penguins and different species of birds are likely to react in different ways or to different degrees to over flights.

A.3.1.2. United Kingdom introduced Working Paper ATCM XXV / WP-26 at ATCM XXV in Warsaw (2002) to bring the issue to the attention of Treaty Parties and to propose a particular set of guidelines. The CEP invited COMNAP, in consultation with SCAR, to review the guidelines, and to report back to the CEP. The present paper presents conclusions and a recommended set of guidelines. Pending further scientific evidence, these guidelines are considered to constitute a reasonable basis for voluntary implementation. They are based on the practical experience of researchers, including input from SCAR, and on experience derived from the national operators' provision of logistics support to researchers. These guidelines are designed to help aircraft operations in Antarctica to be undertaken safely with the minimal environmental impact. COMNAP recommends that aircraft operations in Antarctica should be planned and carried out in accordance with these guidelines to the maximum extent practicable.

#### **A.3.2. Guidelines on Minimum Distances for Aircraft Operations Close to Concentrations of Birds**

A.3.2.1. There are many variables in noise levels received on the ground during aircraft operations. Determining factors on noise levels include flight height, the type of aircraft and engine, the flight profile, the weather and the location. Pilots will need to make their own judgements based on the aircraft type, task and operational safety considerations.

A.3.2.2. Unless otherwise specified, for example by an ASPA management plan or ASMA guidelines, recommended distances are set out below. It is recognised however that whilst these represent preferred distances, which should be adhered to the extent possible, operators may already have developed guidelines to suit their own particular needs and circumstances.

A.3.2.2.1. Penguin, albatross and other bird colonies are not to be over-flown below 2000ft (~ 610 m) Above Ground Level (AGL), except when operationally necessary.

A.3.2.2.2. Landings within ½ nautical mile (~ 930 m) of penguin, albatross or other bird colonies should be avoided wherever possible.

A.3.2.2.3. Never hover or make repeated passes over wildlife concentrations or fly lower than necessary.

A.3.2.2.4. Maintain a vertical separation distance of 2000 ft (~ 610 m) AGL, and a horizontal separation of 1/4 nautical mile (~ 460 m), from the coastline where possible.

A.3.2.2.5. Cross coasts at right angles and above 2000ft (~610 m) AGL where possible.

### **A.3.3. Location of Aircraft Operations (Other Considerations)**

A.3.3.1. Be aware that concentrations of birds are most often found in coastal areas.

A.3.3.2. Be aware that when operating aircraft in inland areas, snow and Antarctic petrel colonies are frequently found on nunataks. Minimum over-flight distance should be maintained in such areas.

A.3.3.3. Where practical, landings near to concentrations of birds should be downwind and/or behind a prominent physical barrier (e.g. hill) to minimize disturbance.

A.3.3.4. Avoid Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, unless authorized to over-fly and/or land via permit issued by an appropriate national authority. For many ASPAs there are specific controls on aircraft operations, which are set out in the relevant Management Plans.

A.3.3.5. Follow aircraft flight heights, preferred flight paths and approach paths contained in the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM), in station aircraft operation manuals and on relevant charts and maps. Once the guidelines have been adopted, COMNAP envisages the preparation of Wildlife and Low Flying Avoidance Maps for the major airstrips in the Antarctic (e.g. Marsh, Marambio, Rothera, McMurdo).

A.3.3.6. Particularly avoid flying toward concentrations of birds immediately after take-off and avoid steep banking turns in flight as these significantly increase the amount of noise generated.

### **A.3.4. Timing of Aircraft Operations**

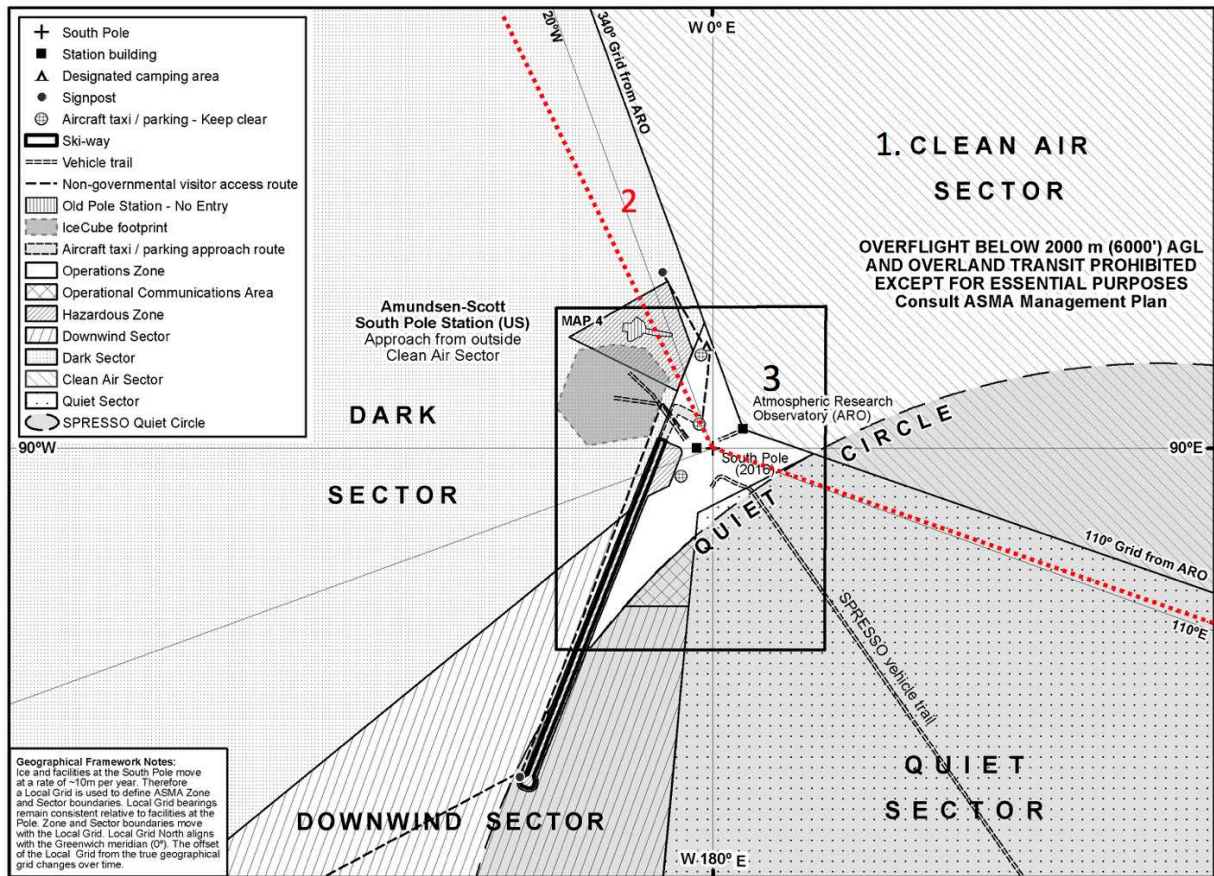
A.3.4.1. Most native bird species breed at coastal locations in Antarctica between October and April each season. During the planning of aircraft operations near to concentrations of birds, consideration should be given to undertaking flying activities outside of the main breeding and/or molting periods.

A.3.4.2. Where aircraft operations are necessary to be close to concentrations of birds, the duration of flights should be the minimum necessary.

A.3.4.3. To minimize bird strikes, especially in coastal areas, avoid flying after dark between October and April. At this time of year, prions and petrels are active. These birds are nocturnal when breeding and are attracted by lights.

A.3.4.4. Aircraft operations should be delayed or cancelled if weather conditions (e.g. cloud base, winds) are such that the suggested minimum vertical and horizontal separation distances given in these guidelines cannot be maintained.

## ATTACHMENT 4: SOUTH POLE CLEAN AIR SECTOR / NO FLY ZONE



**Figure A.4.1:** No-Fly Zone geographic coordinates (2) do not change, but the Clean Air Sector (1) and the De-Motorized Zone (3) “float” with the Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO) building as the polar ice cap moves (grid) NW, approximately 10 meters (33 feet) per year.

### A.4.1. Clean Air Sector (CAS)

A.4.1.1. The CAS is a wedge-shaped area upwind (grid northeast) of the main station complex, defined by the following boundaries, measured from the Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO).

A.4.1.1.1. A line extending grid 340 degrees from the SW corner of ARO - A line extending grid 110 degrees from the SW corner of ARO - 88° 40' South Latitude (150 kilometers/80 nautical miles NE of the station).

#### **A.4.2. No-Fly Zone (NFZ)**

A.4.2.1. To facilitate navigation around the Clean Air Sector, the National Science Foundation has established an additional “No-Fly Zone” extending 2 kilometers (6,000 feet) above the snow surface and defined by the following boundaries, measured from the Geographic South Pole.

A.4.2.1.1. 20° West Longitude (Grid 340°) - 110° East Longitude (Grid 110°) - 88° 40' South Latitude (150 kilometers/80 nautical miles NE of the station)

#### **NOTE:**

USAP aircraft are permitted to enter the No-Fly Zone as necessary for official business. Pilots are asked to report any aircraft excursions into the NFZ/CAS to COMMS via radio. COMMS will notify NOAA personnel for documentation in the CAS log. Departing aircraft are asked to turn left (away from ARO) ASAP to avoid CAS as soon as they gain the minimum altitude to do so to minimize potential contamination of the CAS.

**ATTACHMENT 5: OPERATIONAL PERIODS AT THE MCMURDO AREA AIRFIELDS –  
2017/2018**

**Table A.5.1. Expected Operational Periods**

	<b>Open</b>	<b>Close</b>
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	6 APR 17	8 APR 17
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	31 MAY 17	1 JUN 17
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	12 JUL 2017	13 JUL 17
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	22 AUG 2017	23 AUG 2017
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	13 SEP 2017	14 SEP 2017
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	5 OCT 2017	9 DEC 2017
<b>Williams Field Skiways</b>	15 OCT 2017	21 FEB 2018
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	1 FEB 2018	26 FEB 2018
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	14 MAR 2018	16 MAR 2018
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	8 APR 2018	10 APR 2018
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	18 AUG 2018	25 AUG 2018
<b>Phoenix Runway</b>	29 SEP 2018	2 OCT 2018

## **ATTACHMENT 6: AIRFIELD STATUS UPDATE EXAMPLE**

- A.6.1. Change to current date and time.
- A.6.2. Ensure all changes are done in red.
- A.6.3. Email updated form to [atc.chs@usap.gov](mailto:atc.chs@usap.gov) and [Macctr@usap.gov](mailto:Macctr@usap.gov)
- A.6.4. For questions, contact Mac Center at ext. 2446 or ROF (720)568-2660 or (843)218-7156.

# **PHOENIX FIELD**

## **01 JUN 0626L**

## **AIRFIELD STATUS INFORMATION**

<b>Aerodrome Status</b>	OPERATIONAL
<b>Phoenix Runway 33/15</b>	OPERATIONAL
Phoenix Runway 33/15 Dimensions	150' X 10000'
Overrun Departure End RWY 33 Dimensions	150' X 1000'
Runway Surface Conditions (RSC)	2/10"-6/10" LOOSE SNOW (REPORTED 0600L)
Runway Condition Reading (RCR)	12
Ramp One	OPERATIONAL
Ramp One Fueling Pit	OPERATIONAL
<b>Lighting Aids</b>	
Approach Lights RWY 33	OPERATIONAL
Sequence Flashing Lights (SFL) RWY 33	OPERATIONAL
Threshold Lights RWY 33	OPERATIONAL
Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) RWY33	OPERATIONAL
Runway End Indicator Lights (REILS) RWY 33	OPERATIONAL
Temporary Runway Edge Lights RWY 33/15	WITHDRAWN (used for night operations only)
Temporary Threshold lights RWY 15	WITHDRAWN (used for night operations only)
Temporary HIRRRIM Cones RWY33/15	WITHDRAWN (used for C-17 night operations only)
Runway Markers RWY 33/15	INSTALLED
Distance Remaining Markers RWY 33/15	INSTALLED
<b>Navigational Aids</b>	
TACAN-ZFX-CHANNEL 85	OPERATIONAL
MLS RWY 33	OPERATIONAL
<b>Weather Aids (AWS)</b>	
FMQ-19	OPERATIONAL
<b>Aerospace Ground Equipment Available When Operational</b>	
Hobart Power Carts	2
-95 (Huffer)	1
Heaters	7
Nitrogen Cart	1
B-5 Maintenance Stand	1
Air Stairs	1

#### **PHOENIX AIRFIELD FLIGHT PLANNING INFORMATION**

- AMC PHOENIX AIRFIELD CERTIFICATION VALID UNTIL 10 NOV 2017
- STRESSED RUNWAY IS 150' X 10000'
- STRESSED RUNWAY SHOULDERS ARE 25' WIDE (BOTH SIDES OF RUNWAY)
- STRESSED OVERRUN IS 150' X 1000'
- STRESSED OVERRUN SHOULDERS ARE 25' WIDE (BOTH SIDES OF RUNWAY)
- WHEN INSTALLED: ALL RUNWAY MARKERS ARE LOCATED ON OUTSIDE EDGE OF THE STRESSED SHOULDER BOTH SIDES OF RUNWAY AND OVERRUN
- TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE ALL ARRIVALS SHOULD BE RUNWAY 15 AND DEPARTURES SHOULD BE RUNWAY 33
- TURNAROUNDS: ALL AIRCRAFT ARRIVING RUNWAY 33 SHALL ACCOMPLISH 180 DEGREE TURNS IN THE OVERRUN. ALL AIRCRAFT WHEN DEPARTING RUNWAY 15 SHALL ACCOMPLISH 180 DEGREE TURNS IN THE OVERRUN. DO NOT TURN AROUND ON ANY OTHER PORTION OF THE RUNWAY. DO NOT TURN AROUND IN THE GRADED AREA (NON-STRESSED) WHERE ALL THE BOUNDARY FLAGS DELINEATE THE NON-STRESSED AREA OF THE OVERRUN.
- ALL AIRCRAFT: WHEN DEPARTING RUNWAY 33 ENSURE AIRCRAFT ARE 500 FT FROM THE THRESHOLD LIGHTS WHEN INSTALLED FOR DEPARTURE TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO LIGHTS
- AIRCREWS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO SIGNAL GROUND PERSONNEL WHEN GROUND PERSONNEL CAN APPROACH THE AIRCRAFT TO START OFFLOAD
- PASSENGERS WILL REMAIN ONBOARD ALL AIRCRAFT UNTIL ATO REP ARRIVES AT THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE PASSENGERS
- REILS AND PAPI LIGHT INTENSITY CANNOT BE ADJUSTED
- TEMPORARY LIGHTS AND HIRRRIM CONES LISTED ARE INSTALLED ONLY FOR WINTER NIGHT OPERATIONS – REQUIRES 48 HOURS NOTICE FOR INSTALLATION THROUGH OPERATIONS -720-568-1017 IN MCMURDO OR EMAIL USAP AIRFIELD MANAGER: [gary.cardullo.contractor@usap.gov](mailto:gary.cardullo.contractor@usap.gov)
- MARSHALLER AND/OR "FOLLOW ME VEHICLE" SHALL LEAD ALL AIRCRAFT TO PARKING FOR ALL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES TO AND FROM THE RAMP – AIRCRAFT SHALL NOT ENTER OR DEPART RAMP 1 WITHOUT A MARSHALLER
- FOLLOW MARSHALLER DIRECTIONS TO PARKING LOCATION
- USE CAUTION WHEN SURFACE DEFINITIONS ARE REPORTED POOR OR NIL DURING MOVEMENTS ON APRON AND RUNWAY

- MAINTENANCE ENGINE RUNS SHALL BE IN AREAS WITH EXHAUST DIRECTED OFF OF AIRFIELD AREAS
- NOTIFY MAC CENTER OF REQUIREMENT FOR AIRCRAFT HEAT TWO HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL
- DO NOT ENTER RUNWAY UNTIL READY FOR DEPARTURE
- WEATHER OBSERVER MONITORING 122.8 FOR WEATHER ADVISORIES
- SEE DAILY PHOENIX AIRFIELD ARFF REPORT FOR ARFF STATUS

## **ATTACHMENT 7: METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

A.7.1. The delineation of the Met services SOPP provides to its customers and their expectations are:

A.7.1.1. Joint Task Force – Support Forces Antarctica (JTF-SFA)

A.7.1.1.1. SOPP-provided Met Services

A.7.1.1.1.1. Provide weather support for Operation DEEP FREEZE airlift missions between Christchurch and Antarctica and within Antarctica

A.7.1.1.1.2. Provide weather impacts on scheduled airlift via daily briefings of SFA and staff.

A.7.1.1.1.3. Notification of significant degradation of weather observing or weather forecasting capabilities

A.7.1.1.2. SOPP expects that SFA will:

A.7.1.1.2.1. Provide SOPP with a current listing of SFA's meteorological service requirements

A.7.1.2. Commander, 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (304 EAS)

A.7.1.2.1. SOPP-provided Met Services

A.7.1.2.1.1. Provide Mission Commander weather briefing electronically five hours prior to ETD for Go/No-Go decision

A.7.1.2.1.2. Issue TAFs for the McMurdo active runway and provide pertinent observations

A.7.1.2.2. SOPP expects that the 304<sup>th</sup> will:

A.7.1.2.2.1. Provide SOPP Remote Operations Facility and the Fixed Wing Coordinator with the sequence of events (SOE) for each mission.

A.7.1.2.2.2. Notify the Aviation Service Providers of any changes to flight schedule

A.7.1.3. Aircraft Commander, 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (304 EAS)

A.7.1.3.1. SOPP-provided Met Services

A.7.1.3.1.1. Issue flight weather packet

A.7.1.3.1.2. Conduct flight weather briefing at Christchurch USAP Base Operations via a web-based conference

A.7.1.3.1.3. Issue TAFs for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.3.1.4. Take, record, and disseminate aviation weather observations for the McMurdo area active runway

- A.7.1.3.1.5. Take, record, and disseminate SPECI for the McMurdo active runway every half hour beginning two hours prior to Point-of-Safe Return until arrival at the McMurdo area active runway
- A.7.1.3.1.6. Issue Point-of-Safe Return forecast and updated Christchurch (NZCH) TAF for southbound leg of mission
- A.7.1.3.2. SOPP's expectations of the 304th Aircraft Commander:
  - A.7.1.3.2.1. Provide PIREPS and AIREPS to Auckland Control and Mac Center when in their respective FIR/s.
- A.7.1.4. Operations Officer, 139th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (139 EAS)
  - A.7.1.4.1. SOPP-provided Met Services:
    - A.7.1.4.1.1. Issue TAF/s for the McMurdo area active runway
    - A.7.1.4.1.2. Issue TAF/s for pertinent field camp landing sites
    - A.7.1.4.1.3. Take, record, and disseminate aviation weather observations for the McMurdo area active runway
    - A.7.1.4.1.4. Disseminate weather observations from field camp landing sites.
    - A.7.1.4.1.5. Provide significant changes to observed/forecast weather at LC-130 departure or arrival sites
  - A.7.1.4.2. SOPP's expectations of the 139th Operations Officer:
    - A.7.1.4.2.1. Inform McMurdo Weather Office of any changes to continental and intercontinental flight schedule.
    - A.7.1.4.2.2. Inform impacted aircraft of significant changes to forecasted weather at destination(s)
- A.7.1.5. Aircraft Commander, 139th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (139 EAS)
  - A.7.1.5.1. SOPP-provided Met Services:
    - A.7.1.5.1.1. Issue flight weather packet
    - A.7.1.5.1.2. Provide timely flight weather briefings
    - A.7.1.5.1.3. Conduct flight weather briefing at Christchurch USAP Base Operations via a web-based conference
    - A.7.1.5.1.4. Issue TAF/s for the McMurdo area active runway
    - A.7.1.5.1.5. Issue TAF/s for pertinent field camp landing sites

A.7.1.5.1.6. Take, record, and disseminate aviation weather observations for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.5.1.7. Disseminate Auto weather observations from equipped alternate landing sites where manned observations are not allotted (i.e. William's Field).

A.7.1.5.1.8. Take, record, and disseminate SPECI for the McMurdo active runway every half hour beginning two hours prior to Point-of-Safe Return until arrival at the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.5.1.9. Issue Point-of-Safe Return forecast and updated Christchurch (NZCH) TAF for southbound leg of mission

A.7.1.5.2. SOPP's expectations of the 139th Aircraft Commander:

A.7.1.5.2.1. Provide PIREPS and AIREPS to Auckland Control and Mac Center when in their respective FIR/s

A.7.1.6. Aircraft Commander, 40th Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force

A.7.1.6.1. SOPP-provided Met Services:

A.7.1.6.1.1. Issue flight weather packet

A.7.1.6.1.2. Conduct flight weather briefing at Christchurch USAP Base Operations via a web-based conference

A.7.1.6.1.3. Conduct flight weather briefing when departing McMurdo

A.7.1.6.1.4. Issue TAF/s for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.6.1.5. Take, record, and disseminate aviation weather observations for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.6.1.6. Take, record, and disseminate SPECI for the McMurdo active runway every half hour beginning two hours prior to Point-of-Safe Return until arrival at the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.6.1.7. Issue Point-of-Safe Return forecast and updated Christchurch (NZCH) TAF for southbound leg of mission

A.7.1.6.2. Expectations

A.7.1.6.2.1. 40th Squadron shall inform aviation service providers of changes to flight schedule and briefing times.

A.7.1.7. Aviation Specialist, US Department of the Interior/Office of Aviation services (OAS)

A.7.1.7.1. SOPP-provided Met Services

A.7.1.7.1.1. Provide weather support for National Science Foundation contract aircraft within Antarctica

A.7.1.7.1.2. Notification of significant degradation of weather observing or weather forecasting capabilities

A.7.1.7.2. Expectations

A.7.1.7.2.1. Provide SOPP with meteorological service requirements

A.7.1.8. Contract fixed-wing service provider

A.7.1.8.1. Aviation Meteorological Services

A.7.1.8.1.1. Issue TAF/s for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.8.1.2. Issue VFR Briefing with modified VFR TAF for primary and backup landing site, as identified in the Fixed Wing Schedule, no later than 1700 UTC

A.7.1.8.1.3. Conduct timely flight weather briefings for aircraft departing from McMurdo

A.7.1.8.1.4. Discuss VFR Briefing, via Iridium telephone, with those aircraft pilots operating from field camps

A.7.1.8.1.5. Take, record, and disseminate aviation weather observations for the McMurdo area active runway

A.7.1.8.1.6. Disseminate weather observations from field camp landing sites

A.7.1.8.1.7. Monitor Automated Flight Following (AFF) along route and destinations. Inform, via Iridium telephone, of any significant changes to observed/forecast weather at McMurdo airfield or field camp where aircraft are destined

A.7.1.8.2. SOPP's expectations of the NSF's fixed-wing service provider:

A.7.1.8.2.1. Inform Aviation Service Providers of changes to flight schedule.

A.7.1.8.2.2. Provide PIREPS and feedback regarding observed weather enroute and/or arrival weather.

A.7.1.8.2.3. Contact SOPP Remote Operations Facility prior to or upon departure from any field camp for updates to enroute and destination weather.

A.7.1.9. NSF's contract Helicopter services provider:

A.7.1.9.1. Aviation Meteorological Services

A.7.1.9.1.1. Issue the Daily Helo Briefing

A.7.1.9.1.2. Conduct flight weather briefings twice-daily

A.7.1.9.1.3. Monitor weather in the helicopter operating areas and notify Helo Operations of impending hazardous weather

A.7.1.9.2. Expectations

A.7.1.9.2.1. Contact McMurdo Weather Office for updates to weather in the helicopter operating area.

A.7.1.9.2.2. Notify McMurdo Weather immediately of significant weather in the helicopter operating area.

A.7.1.10. USAP Airfield Manager

A.7.1.10.1. Aviation Meteorological Services

A.7.1.10.1.1. Notification of expected Severe Weather Conditions for the airfields.

A.7.1.10.2. Expectations

A.7.1.10.2.1. Provide McMurdo Weather Office with intentions or plans regarding closing/opening of airfields and associated roads.

A.7.1.11. NSF Prime Contractor's Fixed Wing Coordinator (McMurdo station)

A.7.1.11.1. Aviation Meteorological Services

A.7.1.11.1.1. Provide VFR Briefing of the day no later than 1700 UTC

A.7.1.11.1.2. Provide updated VFR Briefing, allowing 30 minutes for each change in landing site, upon receipt of an updated Fixed Wing Schedule

A.7.1.11.1.3. Attend the twice weekly Air Operations Planning Board (AOPB) chaired by the NSF Prime Contractor's Aviation Operations Supervisor and provide weather impacts on scheduled airlift missions

A.7.1.11.1.4. Provide weather situational awareness briefings to the day and night shift Aviation Operations Coordinators

A.7.1.11.2. Expectations

A.7.1.11.2.1. Include McMurdo Weather Office and SOPP Remote Operations Facility on distribution of all Fixed Wing Schedules

A.7.1.11.2.2. Fixed Wing Flight Schedule should contain all fixed-wing missions, including Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) flights, flights of our USAP Participating Partners, and flights of Non-Governmental Activities (NGA's) for which NSF has made prior agreements to provide aviation meteorological services support

A.7.1.12. NSF Prime Contractor's Science Support

A.7.1.12.1. Aviation Meteorological Services

A.7.1.12.1.1. Provide aviation weather forecasts for helicopter detachment when embarked on USAP research vessels

A.7.1.12.1.2. Provide quality control for the outlying field camp weather observations prior to dissemination

A.7.1.12.1.3. Provide Portable Polar Meteorological Kit (PPMK) operator training to outlying field camp observers

A.7.1.12.1.4. Issue PPMK/s, from GEM Building 159 at McMurdo Station, to outlying field Camp Managers for selected field camps

A.7.1.12.2. Expectations

A.7.1.12.2.1. Ensure McMurdo Fixed Wing Coordinator is informed of NSF agreements with non-USAP Participating Partners that require fixed-wing aviation meteorological services

A.7.1.12.2.2. Include the SOPP Meteorology Manager for representation at mission planning meetings for upcoming Antarctic research projects requiring aviation meteorological services support

A.7.1.12.2.3. Provide the SOPP Meteorology Manager all meteorological support requests contained in submitted Support Information Packages (SIP)

A.7.1.13. Properly trained NSF Prime Contractor personnel or grantees provide aviation METAR weather observations at the South Pole Station and outlying field camps. These observations are required and taken a minimum of three times a day at 0000Z, 0600Z, and 1800Z. Observation frequency increases to hourly, commencing six hours prior to aircraft departure for the camp, and continues through the duration of flight operations. SPECI observations are provided as required. Field camps designated for back-up missions increase frequency of observations to every three hours, commencing six hours prior to aircraft departure for primary camp, and continues through the duration of flight operations.

## **ATTACHMENT 8: UAS CONOPS TEMPLATE**

UAS-WG Only--for Internal Review Processing:

	Review 1 (date)	Initials	Review 2 (date)	Initials	Review 3 (date)	Initials
NSF Aviation						
NSF Ship						
NSF PESH						
SPAWAR						
OAS						
Final Approval Signature / Date						

UAS Group Proposal: Please fill out A.8.1 through A.8.8

### A.8.1. Overview

A.8.1.1. Executive Summary

A.8.1.2. Project Participants

### A.8.2. Implementation Plan

A.8.2.1. Mission Planning

A.8.2.2. UAS Platforms – ID make and manufacturer

A.8.2.3. UAS Specifications – ID operational specifications

Material:

Overall dimensions:

Max TOGW:

Ground clearance:

Service ceiling:

Max cruise speed:

Max endurance:

Rate of climb

Rate of descent

Radio transmission frequencies:

### A.8.2.4. Study Site(s)

A.8.2.4.1. Area A – include:

Proposed flight paths/patterns/altitudes/distances to accomplish goals. These include latitude/longitudes, mission number (if any), call sign, pilot, visual observer, flight plan activation window (dates), altitudes, distances

A.8.2.4.2. Area B, etc.

### A.8.3. Launch and Recovery

Prior to each mission a preflight procedure is defined to assure safe and reliable mission execution. These procedures include crew briefing, aircraft testing and calibration, communication tests and weather checks. The sUAS launch zone is selected and prepared for operations by the PIC. The aircraft will be launched from (describe proposed area). The PIC will establish communication with ATC (Mac Center).

A.8.3.1. Pre-flight Protocol - Before the mission is initiated, the preflight protocol is validated by the PIC and VO.

A.8.3.1.1. Team Briefing shall include:

- Operating Conditions
- Emergency procedures
- Contingency procedures
- Roles and responsibilities of each person involved in operations
- Potential hazards

A.8.3.1.2. Environment Check / Area Assessment:

- Local weather conditions and forecast check
- Local airspace. Will also ID any flight restrictions
- ID locations of persons and property on the surface
- ID other ground or flight hazards

A.8.3.1.3. Aircraft Equipment Check – a preflight aircraft inspections is required prior to every mission:

- Airframe
- Flight Controller
- Imaging Camera/gimbal

A.8.3.1.4. Pre-flight Operation Check – to be accomplished prior to every mission to verify aircraft is in good working order:

- Aircraft check
- Flight controller check
- Aircraft compass calibration
- GPS position acquisition check
- Geo fence function test

A.8.3.2. Launch Procedure – describe launch procedures

A.8.3.3. Landing Procedure – describe landing procedures

**WARNING:**

Most UAS injuries occur when recovering an airborne UAS by hand. Any plan to recover a UAS by hand will be specifically approved by the UAS-WG and only by experienced operators using protective gear.

**A.8.3.4. Airspace Management – describe how you will interface with ATC or ship authorities**

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
SOPP	ATC issues standing NOTAM for the project and geographic footprint utilizing a latitude/longitude center point with radius covering the affected area with a ceiling based on vehicle's maximum service ceiling +2000ft.	Prior to commencement of season operations
SOPP	Issue airfield CTAF VHF frequency and include in NOTAM	Prior to commencement of season operations
Event Planner	Source air band radios	On arrival to MCM
PI (or designated representative)	Confirms planned events with times for next day with FW Ops for inclusion to daily flight schedule	NLT 24 hours prior to planned mission
FW Operations / SOPP ATM	Deconflict daily schedule based on planned events. Clarify priorities with MCM NSF Rep as required.	Prior to daily flight schedule release
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator / SOPP	Radio call to Mac Center / Send notification to advise appropriate users of planned commencement for UAS flight operations. Mac Center email: <a href="mailto:macctr@usap.gov">macctr@usap.gov</a>	30 mins prior to first planned takeoff of the day
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	Establish communication via best means available with appropriate ATC location (Mac Center, Tower, etc)	Prior to powering up systems
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	Verify positive AFF with Mac Center (if installed)	Prior to taxi / takeoff
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	Verify airspace status, traffic with Mac Center. Include planned duration, estimated land time, planned are to operate.	Prior to taxi / takeoff
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	VHF CTAF / UNICOM calls commence for all events within 10NM of an existing airfield	Prior to takeoff, through landing
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	"Off-deck" call to Mac Center	When airborne
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	"Ops Normal calls to Mac Center	Every 30 mins while airborne
Remote Pilot / Pilot Operator	"On-deck" call to Mac Center, with estimated time to next take-off or terminating for the day	At completion of single flight or operations for the day are terminated

**Table A8.1. MCM Summary of UAS Deconfliction Plan and Required Radio Calls**

**A.8.4. Recovery Contingency Plan – self-explanatory.**

**A.8.5. Human Factors –** section used to describe how ancillary people will be managed safely. These are the people not engaged in flight operations, but may be observers, either casual or associated with the project.

**A.8.6. Pilot Certifications**

A.8.6.1. Pilot A

A.8.6.2. Pilot B, etc.

**A.8.7. References**

**A.8.8. Additional Information –** please add any additional information needed for the UAS-WG to consider your work.